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Torres: Defer action on CHCC bill

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

ov. Ralph DLG Torres has asked the House of Representatives to put off acting on a bill that would abolish the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., urging lawmakers to give the CHCC's board more time to work.

See TORRES on Page 4

Fears on fate of Tinian monarchs



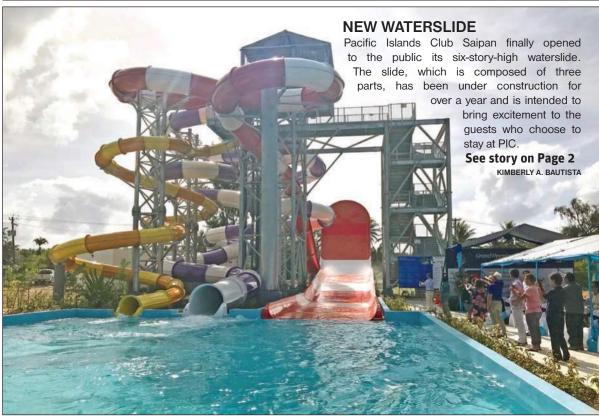
The Tinian monarch is a type of bird that historically has only occurred on the island of Tinian.

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The lack of clarity in what the U.S. military plans to do on Tinian is prompting fears that a great number of Tinian monarchs may be wiped out, according to acting wildlife supervisor Jill Liske-Clark of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

"The threat that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services are worried See FEARS on Page 4



Total number of voters at 16,583 so far

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

A total of 490 persons, mostly those who had just graduated from high school, >>> Roll of new

joined the roster of new Com-

voters at 528

monwealth voters last year.

According to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita Villagomez, about 38

See TOTAL on Page 4



By ERWIN ENCINARES erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

The first CNMI-Guam Working Group started its inaugural meeting

yesterday, allowing both the CNMI and Guam governors and lawmakers to tackle problems affecting the region collectively.

After signing a memorandum of

agreement last Dec. 17, 2017, Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres met for the Marianas working group yesterday at the

See MARIANAS on Page 4

CNMI and Guam officials pose for a picture during the first day of the CNMI-Guam Marianas work group inaugural meeting at the Saipan World Resort. ERWIN ENCINARES

INSIDE



LOCAL

Students in Yap are learning about traditional navigation in Micronesia.

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ASIA

Indonesia's Islamic political parties appear on the cusp of a major victory.

PAGE 20



LIFE & STYLE

Rose McGowan says it's time for Harvey Weinstein to drop his story.

PAGE 23



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PIC opens new waterslides

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan opened to the public yesterday new additions to its waterpark—three new waterslide—after over a year of construction.

The San Antonio resort cut the ribbon to the new slides, with PIC staff demonstrating the mechanics of the waterslides while guests watched and mingled.

According to Micronesia Resort Inc. CEO and president Matthew Park, it took them a year and a half to conceptualize and build the new attractions.

Park said this was the result of guest surveys, with many guests asking for waterslides. He said they also wanted something dynamic and exciting to keep up with the competition. He pointed out that PIC, when compared to other resorts with waterslides, seem sedate and calm, hence the need to amp up the excitement at the resort.

According to Gloria Cavanagh, Pacific Islands Club

Saipan general manager, the slides have been long awaited and it is exciting for her and the PIC staff that the public can finally use it.

"The staff has been doing the testing in the last couple of days and they've just been having so much fun," she said.

The three-part waterslide cost about \$3.5 million to build.







Deleon Guerrero is new CUC board chair

bea cabrera@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Weston Deleon Guerrero now sits as Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair after he was unanimously chosen for the position by other board members during a meeting yesterday in Dandan.

Miranda V. Manglona was voted vice chair, filling up Deleon Guerrero's former position. Matthew Holley remains the board's secretary and Jovita Paulino the board's treasurer.

The election took place despite the absence of a Commonwealth Development Authority representative. Public Law 18-17, Article 3, Section 8131 states that the CDA chairman simultaneously holds a seat on the CUC board. The term of the former CDA board chair, Ignacio Perez, has already expired.

Filling up of the CUC board chairmanship should have happened soon after it became vacant when former CUC board chair Ignacio Perez's term expired in December 2017, according to CUC lawyer Jim Sirok.

"We conducted the election. not that we didn't want to wait for the CDA chair. It's just that the election was supposed to happen already and part of CUC moving forward," Deleon Guerrero said.

"We invited the new CDA [chair David S. Demapan] to be present in today's board meeting but, unfortunately, I'm not sure if he stays on Saipan or on Rota. We also invited him in the operations meeting on Tinian last Tuesday but he wasn't able to come due to the last-minute call to be here... Everything was done in good faith and we are in order," he added.

According to Deleon Guerrero, he is still learning the ropes of being part of the CUC board.

"There is so much to handle but I think somebody needed to step up to the plate and handle this position. ...I'll do my best and go from there," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he does not believe that the



board should agree with him on everything.

"What I do expect from them is that we sit down and we talk about it so we can have a healthy exchange of views and reach a compromise. To

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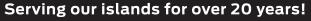
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with me does not sound good to me because it entails a hint of dictatorship and that is not my goal," he said.

"My goal is to be transparent with them. In board decisions,

say I want them to cooperate I'd rather have their opinion so we can come collectively as a board and make that decision as a board. It doesn't mean that because I am the chair I alone conduct the meetings. We are a board and we decide



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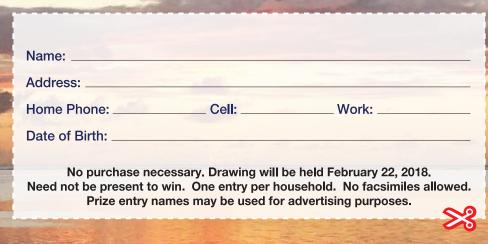


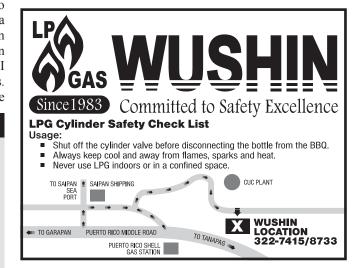
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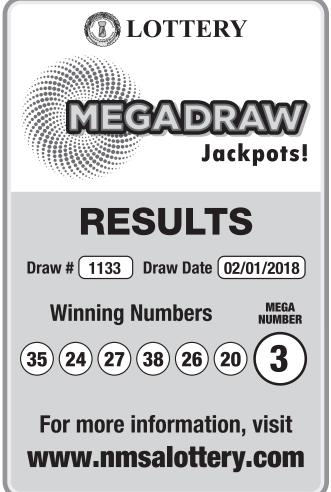
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FEARS

From Page 1

about—frankly, we're worried about too—is we don't really know what the military's plans are for Tinian," she said.

The U.S. military is in the process of revising the CNMI Joint Military Training environmental impact statement and Liske-Clark said that, based on the last proposal, it could prove harmful to the Tinian monarch, a type of bird found only on Tinian.

"If they pursue any of those options on Tinian, it was going to be significantly harmful to Tinian monarchs. They were planning to clear a lot of Tinian monarch habitat," she said.

She said the Center For Biological Diversity petitioned for the Tinian monarch to be listed on the Endangered Species Act list a few years ago.

"I believe it was 2014 and

the first thing the U.S. Fish at greater risk of extinction. and Wildlife did is that they went through a 90-day review and at the end of that 90 days they said, 'You know what, it might warrant listing so we're going to do a 12-month review," she said.

After that review, what was supposed to happen was that U.S. Fish and Wildlife was supposed to come out with a finding and a proposed rule, Liske-Clark said.

"This means they're either going to propose that it gets listed as threatened or endangered or they'll say 'listing is not warranted' or they could also say 'listing is warranted but there are higher priority species right now' and they could make it a candidate species," said Liske-Clark.

She pointed out that it is important that the species is listed because the Tinian monarch is endemic and has only ever occurred on Tinian, putting it

especially since the U.S. military is currently in the process of revising its environmental impact statement.

According to Clark, the Center For Biological Diversity recently wrote the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services that their finding is scheduled to be released a year and a half ago, yet no proposal has been released yet.

The letter also stated that if the finding is not released in the next 60 days, the center would file a lawsuit against U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for not fulfilling its obligation.

"They're forcing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make that determination whether they would propose listing for Tinian monarch," she said.

Even with the effort made by the Center For Biological Diversity, it is still not certain whether the Tinian nests: we saw unbanded monarch will be listed and preserved or not.

"This is just my opinion... I believe if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services proposes for listing, it is because of that threat hanging over us of what the military might do and the question is 'can you list something when the threat is not currently acting?' I don't know what they will do," she said.

Although there is that fear of extinction, the Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Marianas has already taken its own steps to preserving the Tinian monarch.

"Thankfully, the Division of Fish and Wildlife translocated about 100 Tinian monarchs to the island of Guiguan in 2015 and 2016," said Clark. "We returned there in 2017 and we have reason to be optimistic, we saw evidence of breeding. We saw

birds (offspring)," she added.

The division wanted to ensure that there was a "backup supply" in the Northern Islands.

The current situation of Tinian monarchs on Tinian is that the population appears to be relatively secure. In the last 10 years, if not more, population estimates have varied between 50,000 and 100,000 individuals. There are currently around 90,000 Tinian monarchs that reside on Tinian.

TOTAL

From Page 1

more registered in January 2018, bringing the number of new voters to 528.

As of early this week, there are now 13,116 registered voters on Saipan and the Northern Islands, 1,643 on Tinian, and 1,824 on Rota—for a total of 16,583 registered voters in the CNMI, Villagomez said

On Saipan, the most number of registered voters are from San Vicente, which has 2,435. Garapan closely follows with 2,422 registered voters.

There were a total of 17,928 registered voters in the 2016 general election.

This Nov. 6, 2018, general election will include the selection of a governor and lieutenant governor.

The commission opened the registration period a week after the November 2016 election. The deadline to register is Sept. 7, 2018.

Villagomez encourages eligible persons to register now while there are no lines.

To register, CEC just needs either a valid U.S. passport or a copy of one's birth certificate.

MARIANAS

From Page 1

Saipan World Resort.

"It's about time," said Torres, who believes that both the CNMI and Guam deserve more than what they are getting from Washington, D.C.

The first of a two-day meeting with legislators from both the CNMI and Guam legislatures, including CNMI and Guam Cabinet members, began yesterday.

According to Torres, both territories are dealing with similar issues such as the rhinoceros beetle infestation, drug issues, rehabilitation issues, labor issues, and more.

"What we are learning here—what we are experiencing here—we share it together as one Marianas and show [Washington, D.C.] that we are one body and one heart. We are going to be working together toward addressing our issues together," said Torres, adding that both the CNMI and Guam would lobby for one another in Washington, D.C.

Calvo, who has met Torres on several occasions in Washington, D.C., said that both territories deal with issues that stem from decisions made thousands of miles away from both territories.

Whether it's CW issues here or H-2B issues on Guam, it makes it really difficult for us to really reach our full potential as a people. I [believe] the people of the CNMI and their representatives and the people of Guam and our senators coming together in dialogs such as this [is important]. We look at where we have mutual interests, on where we can work better toward cooperation, building close socio-economic ties, and also collaborating a

little more on dealing with the powers in D.C. as well," said Calvo in an interview, adding that he looks forward to more discussions and cooperation in the years ahead.

The working group was attended by several high-profile officials such as Guam Labor director Sam Mabini, Guam Economic Development Authority deputy administrator Mana Silva Taijeron, Guam Port Authority general manager Joanne Brown, special assistant to the Guam governor Tony Ada, former assistant secretary to the Department of the Interior and executive director of the Pacific Basin Developmental Council Esther Kia'aina, and more.

Most of the Guam representatives are former senators.

Saipan was represented by both lawmakers and Cabinet members alike, including House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), Reps. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), and Sens. Jude Hofscneider (R-Tinian), Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), and more.

Other ranking CNMI individuals include Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher Concepcion, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Chris Tenorio, Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Clyde Norita, and more.

The working group was further broken down into seven groups, each relating to commerce, labor, education, tourism, and the like.



CONFINED SPACE RESCUE

Some members of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Search and Rescue Unit and Commonwealth Ports Authority's Aircraft Rescue Firefighting hoist a dummy from a tank during a training on confined space rescue at the CPA ARFF training facility. Instructors from Heavy Rescue Training LLC out of Salt Lake City, Utah conducted the training last Jan. 16 to 31. DEREK GERSONDE

TORRES

From Page 1

In a letter to the bill's author, House vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), Torres urged that Maratita's House Bill 20-149 be "recalled from any further action" for now.

H.B. 20-149, introduced last week, would abolish the CHCC and its board and reinstate it as the Department of Public Health under the Office of the Governor.

In his letter to Maratita dated Jan. 30, 2018, Torres requested a halt on H.B. 20-149 in order for the CHCC board to "be "given the time and opportunity to exercise their authority to fulfill our shared goal of improving

health outcomes and accountability within this most critical institution."

The letter states that Torres is pleased with the current CHCC board's composition and its direction.

CHCC board to undertake a thorough and diligent review of the management of the hospital and will act upon their decisions in a manner that will safeguard the day-to-day operations of the corporation," he said.

In introducing the bill during last Friday's House session, Maratita accused the CHCC management of not being transparent with its finances, among other things.

She also pointed out that CHCC had written off a debt of over \$203 million, report-

edly at the recommendation of the Public Auditor. However, CHCC was reportedly unable to provide evidence of that recommendation.

Maratita added that CHCC's uncooperativeness with the "I have great faith in [the CNMI Legislature was another factor after the vice speaker requested in late December 2017 for an extensive compilation of about 26 reports but have yet to receive one.

> CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said that the \$203-million debt was deemed uncollectible and was inherited from DPH as it transitioned into the CHCC back in 2011, which was the reason behind the Public Auditor's reported recommendation to write it off.

Muña also said that her of-

fice has already reached out to the vice speaker to request for more time to compile the lengthy reports she had requested; however, Muña said that Maratita did not respond to the request.

Muña also added that at this time of the year, the corporation is responding to several annual audits and annual reports required by both the public auditor and the CHCC board.

Initially, H.B. 20-149 was referred to a special committee. The special committee was later dissolved. House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) then referred the bill to the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee and the House Health Committee.

Tinian mayor: Crossed fingers on \$75-million Dynasty fine

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas hopes the \$75 million worth of fines that is keeping the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino from resuming operations is resolved soon.

The Tinian Dynasty shut down in 2015 because it didn't have enough funds to continue operations, a decline in room occupancy rates, and multiple other reasons.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, soon after shutting down, Tinian Dynasty was fined \$75 million by the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network for "willful and egregious violations" of the Bank Secrecy Act.

San Nicolas does not know who will pay that fine or if it will even be paid at all.

"I know that we have investors interested in the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino but I don't know where they are and how far they have negotiated with the owners. But anybody who is interested has to deal with the \$75-million assessment by FinCen," he said.

He is hoping for a resolution of the matter but, at this point, there seems to be none.

San Nicolas said it is a matter of negotiations between the government and the Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. "I think the owners and the government need to really sit down and negotiate a plan on how to resolve the FinCen matter and how to renovate the building," he said.

San Nicolas said that he doesn't want to see the Tinian Dynasty & Casino remain inactive but the fine is a definite barrier.

"I certainly don't want it to just remain idle forever. I don't think anybody wants that but the fact of the matter is that there is an existing assessment on the company," he said.

Hong Kong Entertainment owns the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Its majority shareholder is Mega Stars Overseas Ltd.

As it stands, the building has been unused. There has been no hotel or casino operation on Tinian since 2016.

A visit by the Saipan Tribune showed that the hotel and casino is still heavily guarded by Hong Kong Entertainment.

"It's to prevent heavy vandalism or any trespassing, that's why they still have security there," said San Nicolas.

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BOE MEETING

The Board of Education, the governing and policymaking body of the Public School System and led by chair Maria Lourdes S. Ada, met on Tuesday with Education Commissioner Glen Muña and other PSS officials to tackle initiatives that promote quality classroom instruction and student learning.





man T. Guerrero listen as PSS associate commissioner for Student and Support Services Yvonne R. Pangelinan, foreground, explains

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada, vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio, and board member Florine M. Hofschneider beam during the brief break of the meeting on Capital Hill.



ber Florine Hofschneider and Education Commissioner Glenn

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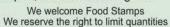
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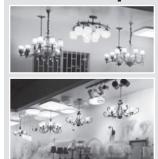


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Kilili thanks lawmakers for supporting CW bill

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) thanked the Legislature yesterday for moving quickly to support the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

Sablan introduced the bill in the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 19. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AIC), chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over the insular areas, introduced an identical legislation in the Senate on the same day.

Shortly after, Sablan wrote to House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) and Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-

Saipan) asking for the Legislature's backing.

"Chairman Murkowski and I plan to move the bill as quickly as we can through the legislative process and on to the President's desk for signature," Sablan said. "The Commonwealth Legislature could help us by quickly adopting a joint resolution supporting the continuation of the [Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker] CW program, as proposed in the Sablan/Murkowski bill."

At their session on Wednesday this week, Marianas House lawmakers approved a resolution that follows Sablan's recommendation—supporting passage of the U.S. Workforce Act. Marianas senators are expected to pass a similar resolution at their session today.

"These expressions of support by the Legislature come at a good time, with a hearing on the bill scheduled before [Murkowski's] committee on Feb. 6," Sablan said. "I look forward to welcoming Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, legislators, business people, and all those who are coming to Washington, [D.C.] next week to show support for our bill."

On the House side, a hearing before the Natural

Resources Committee, of which Sablan is a member, is expected to follow at the end of the month.

The U.S. Workforce Act continues the CW program, as the Legislature asked in a resolution last December.

In addition, the Sablan/ Murkowski legislation resets the CW cap to 13,000 for 2019. The Trump administration has said it intends to cut the cap to 4,999.

"Our bill also emphasizes the importance of hiring U.S. workers in the Marianas." Sablan said. "It increases the training fee employers pay and requires a plan for using those funds in a way that actually puts our local workers

into jobs."

The Sablan/Murkowski bill also addresses wage and hour and workplace safety violations that threaten both U.S. and foreign workers. And the legislation will make it more difficult for human traffickers and other bad actors to obtain CW permits.

Local businesses with longterm foreign workers benefit, too. The bill that Sablan and Murkowski wrote provides those workers a three-year permit that can be renewed across the extension period. "This gives our local businesses and their legacy employees more certainty about their future," Sablan said.

To develop the legislation, a bipartisan, bicameral congressional working group began discussions last year on how to provide for the labor needs of the Marianas after 2019. Sablan, a member of the group, was responsible for drafting legislative language based on agreements reached in those discussions.

Members of the public who wish to support the U.S. Workforce Act may deliver their letters to any of the district offices on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota or email kilili@mail.house. gov. Letters should be copied to Sablan and addressed to:

■ Chairman Lisa Murkowski and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

304 Dirksen Senate Build-

Washington, D.C. 20510

■ Chairman Rob Bishop and Ranking Member Raul

House Committee on Natural Resources

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Constituents are also encouraged to submit letters to the editor for local newspapers, and to post them on social media, #KililiWorkforce-Act. For more information, contact Sablan's office at 323-2647 or email kilili@mail. house.gov. (PR)

Vehicle emission fee raised to \$40

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality has adopted new air pollution control regulations.

The regulations are outlined in the Commonwealth Register, Vol. 39 Number 12, Dec. 29, 2017.

Pursuant to the new regulations, BECQ has increased the vehicle emission certification fee from \$20 to \$40.

All vehicle owners requiring vehicle emission certification testing are advised that effective Feb. 1, 2018, the new vehicle emission certification testing fees are in effect. Contact BECQ at 664-8500. (PR)



February is about empowering teens vs dating violence

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

For the first time in the CNMI, a proclamation that seeks to

fight teen dating violence has been signed in the CNMI, witnessed by approximately 1,600 students of Marianas High School.

The proclamation designates the month of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said this was the first time a proclamation for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month was signed in an educational institution and it shows how important it is that students know that help can be found as long as they take the first step to getting the help they need.

"You're in a relationship because you're suppose to love each other and respect each other. If you're not getting that love and care, then you should speak up," he said.

According to MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera, teen dating violence is constantly seen on campus but it is not openly discussed. Usually, a counselor or teacher is only made aware of an incident when the situation has already gotten out of hand.

"I am so glad we had the proclamation signing here...with a lot of proclamation signings they've done at the Governor's Office. This way, we wanted to bring our entire student population so they could see how important it is to dedicate a whole month to teen dating violence awareness," she said.

Maisie Tenorio, executive director of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, said it should start with parents because it's important that children are taught at home to make healthy choices and that they are empowered to make

> those choices for themselves to avoid getting into toxic relationships, be it with a friend, boyfriend, or girlfriend.

"We're really using February as a way to spread the message, challenge

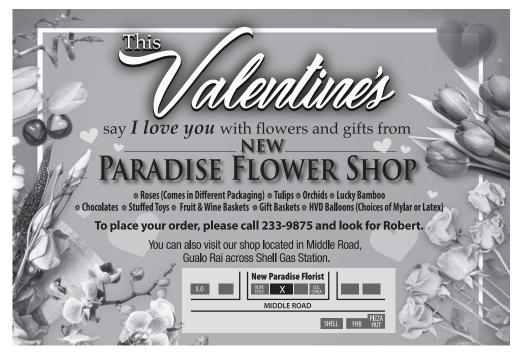
adults, to empower teens, and to create a safe environment for all of our children," she said.

Torres said it is vital that

teens speak up and look for help at the first sign of emotional or physical abuse.

"The more we talk about it with students, the better it is for their relationships. That they should not be forced into it, whether it's physically or emotionally, because none of them deserve that," he said.

Throughout the month of February, the coalition will be hosting poetry slams that will encourage teens to speak out about teen dating violence, share their teen dating violence stories, or just educate one another about what teen dating violence is.







Delta Sky Lounge highlights Saipan craft beer

By BEA CABRERA

bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan Brewing Co. did a promotional taste test at the Delta Sky Lounge of Japan's Narita Airport last month to show off the company's new kiosk at the lounge.

The local brewer's owner, Steven Sablan, said it was a great way to expose the Japan market to the CNMI and its unique products, including craft beer. The promotion was held in cooperation with the Marianas Visitors Authority. "Tourism remains a vital part of most successful businesses in CNMI and we are proud to be featured in this project with Delta. We believe that the visitors that had a taste of our beer in the Delta Sky Lounge at Narita enjoyed the chance to sample a product that is produced and packaged on Saipan," he said.

"I traveled to Tokyo with MVA and my wife, Rïss, to support the launch event and introduce Sky Lounge staff to our craft beer. We served Sirena Blonde and Hafa Adai IPA at the Sky Lounge and the reception was great," he added.

Saipan Brewing hopes to build solid ties in the Japan

"We have had a number of international visitors come to Saipan just for a visit to our brewery. We have also been featured in several international publications and participated in MVA events abroad but this will be our largest foray into the international market," Sablan said.

"We hope this leads to a full-time presence for Saipan

Brewing and other local products in the Japanese market. Saipan has tremendous name recognition in Japan and, with the right approach and support from MVA, we believe there is a market for local products from the CNMI there," he added

Sablan said that 2018 is going to be a breakout year for Saipan Brewing and there is a lot to look forward to.

"Last year we produced over 50 varieties of beer, but we will easily pass that in 2018. We are upping production and will be venturing off



Steve and his wife Riss Sablan show the Saipan Brewing kiosk at the Delta Sky Lounge at the Narita Airport in Japan. "We hope this leads to a full-time presence for Saipan Brewing and other local products in the Japanese market," Steve Sablan said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan to other islands near and far. We are also introducing 12-oz. cans in our Legends series, which will focus on designs incorporating Chamorro history and legends," he said.

"We will have new cans in

our community series that will be designed by local artists in the CNMI. We are also in the lookout for some great new events this year and new partnerships with other small local businesses," he added.

GRANDVRIO RESORT *Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm *Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm *Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm DOLPHIN Romantic Valentine's Day Candle Dinner Special Course Menu: \$30 WED Breakfast Buffet \$19 **Buffet Lunch** Reg.: \$20 (Local: \$17) 02/15/18 Breakfast Buffet \$19 Breakfast Buffet \$19 Breakfast Buffet \$19 Sunday Brunch Reg.: \$29 (Local: \$25) Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25) Brunch Breakfast Buffet \$19 Seafood & Seafood & Sushi Night New Year Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25) Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25) 02/15/18 Chinese New Year Eve Dinner Buffet Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25) Dinner Buffet **TROPICANA** Startleght BBQ Business Hours: 6pm-9pm COFFEE Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order: 8:30pm Menu: "All you can eat & drink" Business Hours: 1pm-10pm Beers, red & white wine, soft drinks. Last Order: 9:30pm Happy Hour: 4pm - 7pm oolong tea and juices 10:00am-6:00pm For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Scheduled power interruption on Feb. 3

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 1:30pm to 4pm to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to perform vegetation clearing on the high voltage primary lines along Railroad Drive in San Vicente.

Areas to be affected: Kiya 1 (1st Partial)" San Vicente (Railroad Drive, Sinagu Lane and Tininu P1).

No water wells or wastewater lift stations will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. *(PR)*

Aircraft carrier to make Guam visit

SANTA RITA, Guam—Aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson* is scheduled to make a visit to U.S. Naval Base Guam tomorrow, Jan. 31, marking the ship's first port call during a Western Pacific deployment in 2018.

Led by commanding officer Capt. Douglas Verissimo, *Vinson* is the flagship for Carrier Strike Group 1. The strike group previously visited Guam while operating in the region last February.

On Jan. 5, the carrier departed San Diego with an air wing complement of more than 70 aircraft.

Commissioned in 1982, *Vin-son* is America's third Nimitz-class aircraft carrier. *(PR)*

Chamber training on use of social media

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a training seminar called "Social Media for Business!" on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, from 9am to 11:30am at the Chamber's conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315).

This seminar will focus on the effective use of social media to find new customers, engage existing customers, and enhance the overall effectiveness and success of your business. Both retail and service industries can greatly benefit from the free advertising available online.

Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Reservations and advance payment are required. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Road closure on Beach Road

There will be construction and road closures on the northbound lane of Beach Road in between Llat Street and Alas Street in Garapan until March 25, 2018. The road is expected to re-open on March 25, 2018. This will allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, RNV Construction, to perform renovations on a sewer lift station, S-10. Due to the closure of the northbound lane and for the safety of the community, motorists, and large vehicles are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling through the area. (PR)

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Yap students learn about canoes in Micronesia

COLONIA, Yap—Students in Yap are learning about the heritage of traditional navigation in Micronesia, thanks to a four-panel pictorial history display created and donated to the Yap Living

History Museum by ethnographic filmmaker, scholar and Palu navigator Eric Metzgar Ph.D. of California.

Metzgar was the keynote speaker at the recent 8th Annual Canoe Festival held in Colonia at the museum and sponsored by the Yap Visitors Bureau.

Included on the display are historic photos and artwork of traditional canoes, handcarved charms used to ward off bad weather when at sea, schematic drawings of canoe designs, a famous master navigation to young boys, and even a postage stamp honoring the history and craft of canoe building and navigation.

The display will be sent to local high schools in Yap, beginning with Yap Catholic High School last Jan. 22.

Tom Tamangmow, YVB's

product development manager, introduced the display to the YCHS students and showed Metzgar's recent film, *A Voyaging Odyssey*, which documents the 2010 ocean crossing that rediscovered the ancient, traditional routes between the islands of Lamotrek, Guam, Yap, and Palau.

"It's very important that our young people do not lose the knowledge of canoe building and celestial navigation," Tamangmow said. "Traditional skills are in jeopardy and it our responsibility to make sure they are not lost forever. This display gives us the opportunity to increase our children's knowledge. We also hope some of the boys will be interested in joining the elders in their respective communities or at the canoe house to learn more about our rich history." (PR)



JOYCE MCCLUI

Yap Catholic High School juniors Jayvie Taruweliut, left, and Nicholas Untun study the display of historic materials about canoe building and navigation on loan from the Yap Living History Museum.

House JGO adopts pro-animal bill

By ERWIN ENCINARES

Erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

A CNMI House of Representatives committee adopted last Tuesday a measure to protect animals from cruelty and theft.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 20-24, the first of its kind in the CNMI, seeks to prevent the cruelty and theft of animals.

According to the bill, intentionally mistreating, abandoning, or neglecting an animal belonging to any person would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, 250 hours of community service at an animal shelter.

However, if an individual causes the death or serious bodily injury of an animal; has prior conviction of animal cruelty; or engages or promotes dog fighting, then the individual would be guilty of a misdemeanor and ordered to pay at least \$500 but not more than \$1,000 and perform 500 hours of community service at an animal shelter.

The bill also protects law enforcement officers and allows them to enter private properties, including cars, with or without a warrant, to rescue an animal from "inhumane and cruel conditions."

The Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee amended the bill to include protection for farmers by exempting animals slaughtered for either farming and husbandry or culture and tradition. The exemption also encompasses lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping practices;

lawful cockfighting; lawful research or teaching; an act of self-defense; and if it is a means for pest control.

The bill's author, Propst, told Saipan Tribune last Tuesday that he also plans to introduce an amendment once the House gathers for action on his bill. He said the amendment would prohibit the use of domesticated animals for human consumption.

"Dogs are supposed to be man's best friend," said Propst. "They are not acceptable as food. That is an amendment I will try to pass."

JGO committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* that several members of the public have reached out to him in support the bill.

"The final product as adopted, after much tweaking, is something we're proud of because it protects pets and balances our cultural and traditional practices of farming and husbandry. This is a good compromise bill and the JGO members are pleased with the final product," said Blanco, adding that he looks forward to the full support of the House and Senate members.

JGO adopted H.B. 20-24 unanimously. Its members include Reps. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Francisco Aguon (R-Saipan), Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Blanco.

Attao, Sablan, and Villagomez, along with Reps. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Joseph "Leepan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan), and Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) co-signed the bill.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 **13**





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Let's Go Places 14 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

President Trump's task—to fulfill vow to unify the nation

resident Donald Trump delivered his first address Tuesday in a caldron of partisan controversy, stoked most strongly by the Russia investigation. Politically, the nation is more divided than ever. Democratic members of Congress who boycotted the address reflected the mood.

Trump said earlier in the day it would be a great achievement if he could unite the country. He's right, even discounting his role in inflaming those divisions. His pitches for bipartisanship and unity could have been delivered by almost any conservative, asking for true collaboration on infrastructure and immigration and to protect Americans of all backgrounds.

His plea was welcome. The need is dire. But his actions will mean more than his words. Achieving the "new American moment" he evoked of "one American family" will require an embrace far more inclusive and an effort far more consistent than he has shown so far.

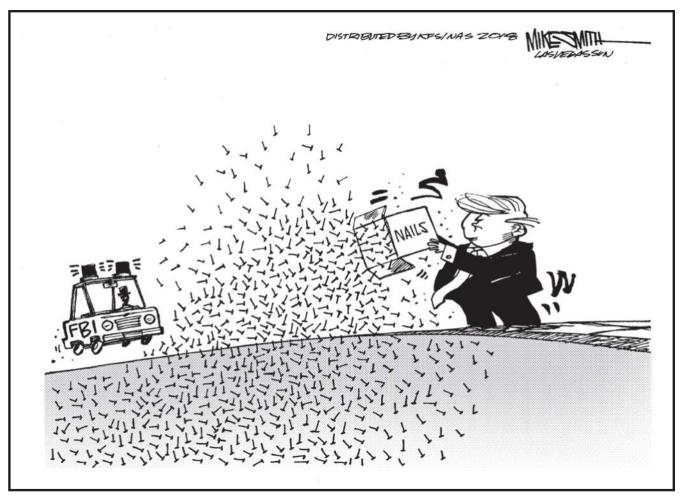
Nothing has sharpened divisions and inflamed passions like illegal immigration. The parents of Nisa Mickens and Kayla Cuevas, two Brentwood teens brutally murdered by MS-13 members in September 2016, were recognized in a wrenching moment that bordered on exploitation as Trump rightly condemned gang violence, but again left the impression that immigrants are synonymous with crime. He asked for bipartisan support for a plan that's been battered at both partisan extremes. We hope there's space in between for a deal, but that won't happen if Trump continues to denigrate minorities and other countries.

As expected, Trump touted his economic successes. His buoyant tone was understandable. Optimism is rising and the economy continues to improve, but not for all people. Numbers of jobs are growing, but at a slightly slower pace than in most of Barack Obama's years. The stock market has been skyrocketing, but nearly half of Americans own no stock. Tax cuts were passed, but it's unclear who the losers will be, especially in places like Long Island, and they seem likely to widen economic inequality.

Other victories also have many faces. Regulations have been repealed, but at what cost to the environment? The Islamic State has been weakened, but the Middle East is still fraught and no one knows what insurgency comes next. And though Trump has gotten conservative federal judges appointed, most are white men, and some picks were so unqualified even Republicans rejected them, a symptom of his general inability to fill the government he runs with competent people. More than one-third of the 630 key jobs requiring confirmation have no nominee.

Eleven months ago, Trump went before Congress and called for unity and bipartisanship. There was legitimate hope, but those words proved hollow. When Trump said Tuesday that the duty of the nation's leaders is to respect, serve and listen to Americans, that means all Americans. He must turn the picture he painted into reality.

(c)2018 Newsday



Moon pies and chopsticks

Ye made a great discovery that combines elements of the East and the West. Like most great discoveries, this one is rooted in making the best of a bad situation. Yes, it's quite the epic tale.

But first we need to start with the legend. For this we go to the coal mines of the southern United States. In about 1917, a salesman with the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Bakery company encountered some miners. He sought to develop a confectionary product for their lunch pails. And thus was born the "moon pie," which was essentially a chocolate-covered sandwich with a marshmallow center between two graham crackers.

Moon pies remain, to this day, a staple snack food in the South. They're commonly sold at checkout counters in convenience stores. A moon pie measures 3-1/4 inches in diameter. Yeah, I actually measured a moon pie.

As good as moon pies are, they are prone to leaving little chocolate crumbs on your shirt. This evidently wasn't a deal-killer for coal miners back in the day, but those guys never had to confront dry-cleaning bills for Oxford cloth.

So that's the problem, you see? I was at a loss for a solution. Forks don't work. They just aggravate the crumbling process.

The problem sat on my shelf for a long time. In dereference to my status as a wayward southern gentleman, somebody gave me an entire box of moon pies. I dug into one moon pie, got reacquainted with the crumb thing, and let the remainder of the box sit fallow.

People would ask about the box but I'd just change the subject.

In the meantime, late last year, the flu scare started building steam.

One of my tactics to keep the flu at bay was to cut back on using communal coffee machines and similar devices. This was the result a total gross-out that I mentioned in last week's column. Incidentally, after I ran that column some of my pals started one-upping me with gross-out stories. These stories are enough to compel anyone to consider moving into a hermetically-sealed bubble. I can't afford one of those, but I know of a '72 AMC Gremlin that's available. We're opening escrow next week.

Anyway, as sound as these plans are, you can never be too careful about this flu. So I also decided to cut way back on shoving food into my face with my grubby little mitts. Thus began my field experiment to assess just how much stuff I can eat with

By ED STEPHENS

disposable chopsticks.

The only thing better than

a weird idea is a weird

idea pushed too far. So I

unleashed my chopsticks

on anything I could find.

Pizza didn't work. But instant

oatmeal did, as long as it wasn't

too thin, which was no

problem because there

is nothing worse than

runny oatmeal.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/ her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

As it turns out, that's a mighty long list. A Big Mac and fries, for example, are no problem. And, of course, I don't even have

to mention Chicken McNuggets. Talk about a match made in heaven.

The only thing better than a weird idea is a weird idea pushed too far. So I unleashed my chopsticks on anything I could find. Pizza didn't work. But instant oatmeal did, as long as it wasn't too thin, which was no problem because there is nothing worse than runny oatmeal.

Which brings me to grits, which is basically a corn-based version of oatmeal. Grits is, like moon pies, a staple of Southern heritage. And instant grits, as long as it's not too runny, will, like oatmeal, cooperate with chopsticks if you're careful. No, it's not ideal, but disposable chopsticks seem more convenient to keep around than spoons are, so, well, there you go.

I eventually devoured just about everything possible, and a few things that weren't, with chopsticks.

Only one thing remained. That thing was the box of moon pies. And, Eureka! That's the way to eat 'em: with chopsticks.

That's because the alternative is to fumble with the moon pie while it's in the wrapper, a necessary precaution to avoid getting chocolate on the fingers, but the complexities of this dynamic seem to aggravate the crumb situation. Chopsticks simply wind up being a cleaner play. The secret is to keep the moon pie intact. The chopsticks are used to hold it, not to break it.

Hey, at long last: problem solved. And it was solved with an elegant fusion of Eastern and Western concepts.

That's my big discovery for the new year. Yes, it's still early in the year, but I doubt I can top this accomplishment, so I won't even try.

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity;

and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



White House haiku and Senate senryu

The Senate trys to keep government open, McConnell "I object"

partisan politics paralyzes as both sides continue to reject appointees ineptitude, Donald's decrepitude, surrounded language and testosterone quale as short term memories fail we see ADAM, Androgen Decline in the Aging Male tweets a very "smart phone', government closed need bail a conversational cripple with a crutch of profanity from the dumpster a ripple, vulgarity with regularity now the 'new normal' inanity, pure political insanity an epitaph to make you laugh for President No. 45 DJT try 100% to remember all my bigly tweeting twits filled with nothing but worthless twit and twaddle though they give generals and foreign diplomats the fits all seem quite lacking of enough congressional coddle.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter of support

Dear Delegate Sablan: We are writing to you as the collective voice of the business community on Saipan. Our Saipan Chamber of Commerce comprises more than 160 private businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. As our island is small and remote, our Chamber makes great strides to work with our whole community, as we are interdependent and our workforce issues affect not only our businesses, but our entire economy.

We wish to express our strong support of the Northern Marianas Islands U.S. Workforce Act. Our Chamber believes that the provisions in this bill will allow our economy to continue to grow while we work toward training the current and future available local workforce, as well as the recruitment and retention of additional U.S. qualified workers.

We would, however, like to request the following additional considerations:

g We believe that delaying the reduction of 500 per year for the cap from 2020 until 2023 would allow businesses to continue to train and recruit without being significantly affected by a workforce reduction. Many of the existing job positions do not qualify for H visa categories, yet will require three months to three years of additional training to be filled by a U.S. qualified workers. We need the additional years to continue the economic momentum we were experiencing prior to the loss of 3,000 CW-1 employees in fiscal year 2018, and as wages exponentially rise in an improved economy we anticipate former U.S. citizen residents to return to meet the impact of future CW-1 reductions.

g We would like to request an additional 2,000 permits for the initial cap (to 15,000), which would allow business developments currently in the planning stages to have an adequate workforce prior to opening.

g Additionally, we foresee a potential lag time between when this legislation may be made into law and when the parties involved begin to implement the requisite actions. We ask to be involved in the regulatory processes, which will aid in setting procedures for U.S. DOL certification and wage determinations.

We truly appreciate your efforts in addressing our workforce issues and humbly ask for your assistance in moving this legislation forward.

Velma M. Palacios

Chamber board president

'Please withdraw bill'

ear Madam Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita: I write to you regarding House Bill 20-149, and our shared efforts to improve the quality and accountability of our islands' sole hospital. The introduction of this bill showcases an admirable concern for our community and your admirable desire to see progress in improve healthcare throughout our islands. For that I thank you for your partnership and commitment.

As you are aware, after nearly 10 years following the creation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Public Law 19-78, instituted a board of trustees with the important mandate to govern, manage, and control the corporation in line with the language provided by the law. Following a thorough and exhaustive review of the available candidates to serve in these important roles, I am pleased with the board's composition and its current direction.

In accordance with the mandates of Public Law 19-78, the board is currently in the process of instituting an assessment of the performance and management of the corporation. I have great faith in CHCC's board to undertake a thorough and diligent review of the management of the hospital and will act upon their By RALPH DLG. TORRES

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



decisions in a manner that will safeguard the day-to-day operations of the corporation.

With that, I am humbly requesting that House Bill 20-149 be recalled from any further action on the floor for the time being and that the board be given the time and opportunity to exercise their authority to fulfill our shared goal of improving health outcomes and accountability within this most critical institution.

I thank and commend you for tirelessly working toward improving our islands' healthcare, and I look forward to working with you on any future bills aimed at improving our hospital for our community and our cherished healthcare workers.

Regressive federal policy

en years ago, the NMI was denied local control of immigration by the U.S. Congress. The reasoning was unfair competition in apparel manufacturing between theirs and ours.

The removal of this policy has dealt the NMI economic stagnancy and uncertainty. We now mull over its disastrous implications before the end of next year.

The denial violates federal obligation under the Covenant agreement to "provide for a higher standard of living." The net effect is the complete opposite. It compromises and dulls our ability to plan for our future wellbeing. It shows the insensitivity of policies made across the sea that completely ignores our views.

It's situational irony where we're expected to compete in a marathon as an amputee. The more critically we look at it the more it confirms that its intent is to paralyze whatever our plans may be to improve the quality of life of our people. The feds must come to terms with the essence of consistency in policy.

It's an issue that must be restored for the sake of the economic future of the NMI. Otherwise, we'd be paddling our canoes across the Pacific to beg for more handouts that aren't necessarily free for they are paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

In paralysis, we did our rain and fire dance and came up with casino as our holy grail to meeting financial needs. Common sense dictates this isn't the answer. It's in economic diversification! Given nearby competition, what if this single-licensed business goes Deep South or bankrupt? Does the Torres administration have a back-up plan?

It is a given that labor and immigration go together in tandem. When the latter is missing, there's total compromise in the disposition of projects or any meaningful planning.

While this compromises nearly every aspect of self-government, have our esteemed elected elite done anything to restore the dignity of strengthening our democratic institutions? Complacency must have sunk a bit too deep in their nimble minds, thus the repeat of the refrain "que sera" well into the wee hours of the morning. Humiliating!

Deep state: Then there's the Deep State—officials who issue policies as good as laws—people who we never elected as our representatives in Washington. The issue is now under serious scrutiny in D.C. This was prompted by the fact that there are policies that impose huge expenses against states and territories by as much as \$100 million per pop. This amount requires the issue be returned to the U.S. Congress for disposition.

Here at home, a closer scrutiny reveals that "we the people" are sandwiched and neglected right in what I call institutional failure! It's the tendency to ignore the voice of the people. It's one of complete abandon. Remember the 80-percent salary increase in recent past?

Remember Biktot Hokog's expropriation of the \$400,000 for his family business? Why are legislators woefully mute on this issue?

Recalled two years ago I wrote of the dire need for elected officials to focus on putting strength, building strong governance.

It seems, however, that we are satisfied with our sophomoric understanding of our relationship with Uncle Sam. It certainly needs revisiting and strengthening!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/ her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Competency and nepotism

Two retired government leaders with superb academic and professional credentials recently made mention of competency and nepotism in government. They are former chief justice Jose Dela Cruz and former speaker Oscar C. Rasa.

There's full substance and legitimacy in what they've raised, for they've kept an eye on the wellbeing of the public. Across the board, are people appointed to key positions endowed with the requisite credentials? Or isn't it true that some family members are pushed into positions because of nepotism?

This disposition shows reckless disregard for the final recipient of incompetency and family connection: the demise of our intellectual resources. They may be out of active government service, but it pays to listen to their wise counsel to secure clarity and understanding on policy matters you may have in mind. They're people with intellectual depth upon which the uninitiated could learn.

Is it fitting to derail opportunities to improving the quality of life of our people just so that you are rewarded a job because of your filial or political "connection" to the inner sanctum of politics? What credentials do you bring to the table?

Do you appoint a brother or sister-in-law to a position without the requisite credentials, skipping others who have far superior qualifications? This is what the former speaker is talking about in the demise of our intellectual resources. It also contributes to the loss of trust in our governmental institutions.

Ooops: It brings into focus a policy matter relating to the ongoing disoriented discussion how to run the public hospital here effectively and efficiently.

For instance, Rep. Janet Maratita wrote a lengthy, disoriented, and myopic dissertation. It skips mention of the deadly influenza sweeping across the country, killing both young and old while research for medication lags behind in complacency. And she wants a return to the old system for no other than political punditry.

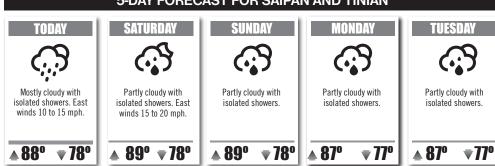
Ms. Maratita should retreat from myopic spouts so she ensures that CHC is sufficiently funded to treat the fast spreading fatal illness (influenza) that has begun spreading like wildfire everywhere. Closer to home, some 2.8 million Japanese are infected with it today.

The budget for CHC has selfishly been incremented. If the flu descends quicker than its usual spread, the hospital may find itself short of beds, ventilators, vaccine and other equipment. Hospitals across the country are straining to accommodate the flood of patients. Does this ring a bell, Ms. Maratita?

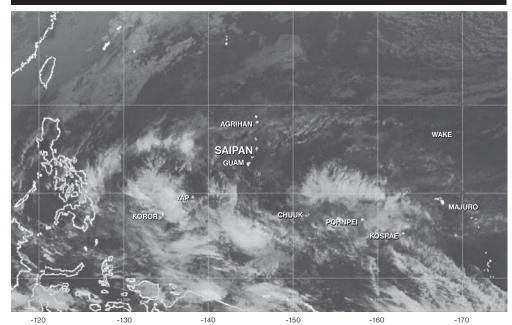
16 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN



YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showed a few clouds passing over the Marianas this morning. Radar has shown isolated showers earlier this morning, but none by sunrise. Deep-layer moisture will be lacking the next few days with 700 mb relative humidity predicted to stay below 50 percent through the weekend. While moisture will be limited, there will be enough at the lower levels to produce mostly cloudy skies through Friday night. Partly cloudy skies are expected this weekend. Winds have decreased from Wednesday and will be between 15 to 20 mph today. A further decrease is predicted for tonight with 10 to 15 mph winds expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Showers	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°

Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	_ ▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Showers	75° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	34° / 10°
Hong Kong	Sunny	59° / 45°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	79° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	80° / 55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Melbourne	Sunny	79° / 59°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	76° / 66°
New York	Windy	33° / 19°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	46° / 32°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	45° / 36°
Busan	Sunny	37° / 19°
Rome	Showers	59° / 46°
Salem	Showers	59° / 38°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	21° / 3°
Tokyo	Showers	48° / 36°
Washington, DC	Windy	34° / 20°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS		
3 IUPPEBS	F3 Lan 181	7
	S	TOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

 Homopagor Hillington Jaarij								
TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET						
2:56 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.59						
9:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.09						
3:27 PM	LOW TIDE	0.91						
8:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.05						

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:58 am	8:01 pm
Saturday	-	8:47 am	8:59 pm
Sunday	-	9:33 am	9:54 pm
Monday	-	10:16 am	10:47 pm
Tuesday	-	10:58 am	11:38 pm

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@ saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)											
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily								
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily								
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota								
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6								
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily								
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily								

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) 7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7 7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) 2:00am 6:05am TW308 Daily 2:10am 6:00am 07626 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 0Z626 2:50am 6:40am LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7 7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily 7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 5:40am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) ID396 7:30am 12:00pm JD396 4:50pm 10:00pm

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 1:30am 6:35am 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) 0Z626/701 2:10am 10:55am 1 via ICN 0Z626/701 2:50am 10:55am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA6394/191 4:15am 9:00am 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM UA6394/PR111 7 yia GUM 4:15am 8:10am UA6394/PR111 4:15am 9:20am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/183 6:05pm 9:40pm 2, 5 via GUM UA6398/183 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 6:05pm 9:50pm 6:05pm 11:50pm UA6398/193 2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) HX077 1:50am 5:15am 0Z626/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN 0Z626/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 5:45am 8:40am 1, 3, 5, 7 U043 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM UA6398/159 6:05pm 11:00pm

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA6395 7:15am 8:05am UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA6390 2, 3, 6 via Rota 12:10pm 1:50pm UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN 10:30am 3:05pm Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN 7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4 7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN 9:30am 3:00pm 7C3402 Daily 7:40pm 1:00am+1 07625 TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily 0Z625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 11651 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 10:20pm 4:30am+1 3.4.6.7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN ID395 8:25am 3:30pm JD395 9:55pm 5:00am+1 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1,5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 4:25pm 12:30am+1 2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN UA182/6395 12:40am 8:05am 3, 6 via GUM UA190/6397 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM 0Z702/625 12:25pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN 07702/625 12:25pm 1:40am+1 PR110/UA6395 10:05pm 8:05am+1 Daily via GUM 2, 5 via ROR-GUM UA192/6395 10:30pm 8:05am+1 UA184/6395 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN 1:15pm 1:00am+1 0Z722/625 7 via ICN 0Z722/625 1:15pm 1:40am+11, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN HX076 5:15pm 12:15am+1 3, 7 U042 1:45am+16:50pm U042 9:30pm 4:25am+12, 4, 6 UA116/6395 11:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

Daily

FREQUENCY

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAD MADIANAS AID INC

		5	IAK MAKIA	INAS AIF	k, INC.	
SAIPAN 1	TO ROTA			1204	10:00AM 11:00AM	10:15AM 11:15AM
FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1206 1207 1208 1209	12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM 3:00PM	12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM 3:15PM
ROTA TO	SAIPAN			1210	4:00PM	4:15PM
FLIGHT # 3101	DEPARTURE 8:15AM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM	FREQUENCY Daily	1211 1212	5:00PM 6:00PM	5:15PM 6:15PM
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	TINIAN T	O SAIPAN	
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
ROTA TO	GUAM			2102	7:30AM	7:45AM
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2103 2104 2105	8:30AM 9:30AM 10:30AM	8:45AM 9:45AM 10:45AM
GUAM TO	ROTA			2105	11:30AM	11:45AM
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM
SAIPAN 1	TO TINIAN			2109	2:30PM 3:30PM	2:45PM 3:45PM
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2110	4:30PM	4:45PM
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2112	5:30PM	5:45PM
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2113	6:30PM	6:45PM
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily			-

Birmingham-Babauta named CHCC spokesperson

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. had named Samantha Birmingham-Babauta as its public information officer.

A CNMI native, Birmingham-Babauta obtained her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from California State University, Northridge. She is also the CNMI's first Gates Millennium scholar in 2011.

After a post-graduate internship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Birmingham-Babauta returned to Saipan to work for CHCC as a service navigator for the Division of Public Health where she

Joint resolution in support of CW extension heads to Senate

By ERWIN ENCINARES

The House of Representatives unanimously passed Wednesday a joint resolution that supports the bill to extend the expiration of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program from 2019 to 2029.

House Joint Resolution 20-08, which supports U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) S. 2325, passed the CNMI House on a vote of 18-0.

Murkowski's bill extends the CNMI's transition period by another 10 years, ultimately extending the CW program and other programs with it.

Introduced in the U.S. Senate last Jan. 19, 2018, Murkowski, who led a working group tasked with setting up parameters of the extension, worked with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to craft the bill.

Simultaneously, Sablan introduced in the U.S. House H.R. 4869, which contains the exact language as the bill.

"We believe [S. 2325] is a product that is going to be helpful to the economic livelihood of the Commonwealth, so through this joint resolution, we are supporting S.

2325," said Rep. Angel A. De-

mapan (R-Saipan), the author

of H.J.R. 20-08.

Demapan said the CW extension is a "time-sensitive" matter. Current law provides a 180-day or six-month renewal period per CW permit every fiscal year. With U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services cutting the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 to just 4,998 slots, the CNMI economy is at stake, Demapan said.

CW workers make up the majority of the CNMI workforce.

In S. 2325 and in H.R. 4869, a 10-year extension is being proposed while bumping up the CW annual cap for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000 instead of the 4,998 as set by the USCIS.

In order to avoid the large reduction of slots, full support and unity must be displayed at the U.S. Senate public hearing on the bill on Feb. 6, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

While the cap limit is increased, 500 slots are reduced annually starting fiscal year 2020. CW-3 permits are renewable every three years.

"Without any legislative fix, USCIS has to operate with the presumption that the CW permit would be zeroed out," said Demapan. "It's going to be very detrimental to the business community."



Birmingham-Babauta

ate for Policy, Sustainability, and Development. She was responsible for plan-

was primarily respon-

sible for outreach

and education to the

community about the

Zika virus and associ-

In her most recent

role, Birmingham-

Babauta served as

the research associ-

ated birth defects.

ning and analyzing evidence-based practices in health, mobilizing community partners, supporting in developmental projects for the hospital and public health.

"I'm excited to take on the PIO role for CHCC. Communication is important in any agency and I think that much of the misunderstanding that occurs is because of gaps in communication and therefore a gap in information. There's a lot of great work that happens behind the scenes and I'm enthusiastic about sharing that work with the community," she said.

While the role of PIO was held by different persons in the past and used mainly during emergencies, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said that BirminghamBabauta's appointment is an acknowledgement "more than ever [of] the need to have a specific individual focused in being the conduit of information to all of CHCC's internal and external stakeholders. Sami brings her recent experience and her background in health to accomplish CHCC's goal to bring information to stakeholders early and engage them with CHCC's board of trustees, administration, management, and staff." (PR)

CHCC to host specialists in March, May

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be hosting Dr. Greg Gardner, senior rheumatologist from University of Washington, at the Family Care Clinic from March 5 to 16.

In addition to seeing patients, he will also conduct provider education for local physicians during the regularly scheduled grand rounds sessions.

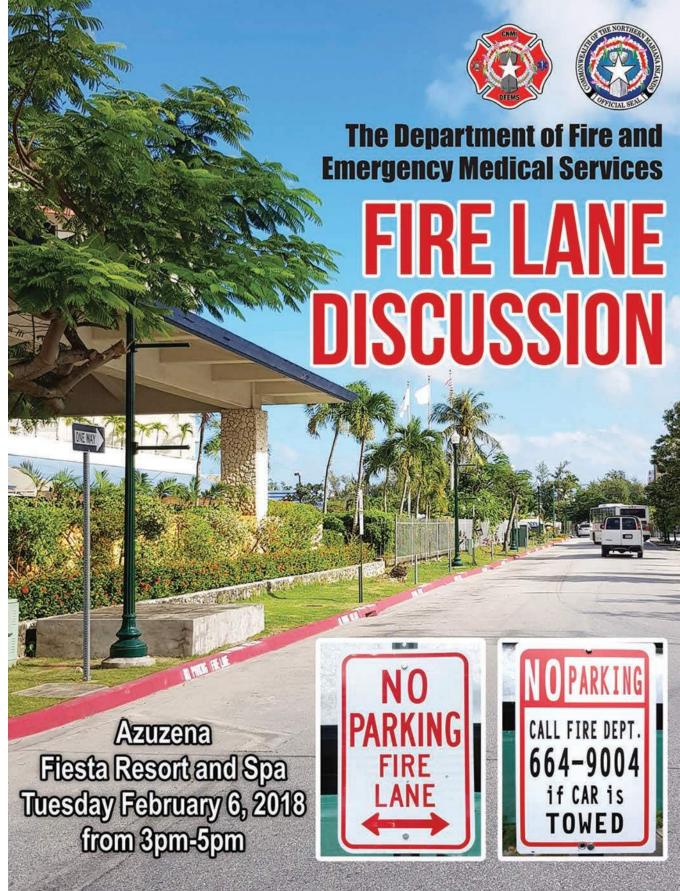
Rheumatologists specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of arthritis and other diseases of the joints, muscles, and bones.

Ask your primary care provider if a referral to Gardner is right for you. Referrals must be made by Feb. 19, two weeks before Gardner arrives on island.

In collaboration with the Hillblom Foundation, CHCC will also be hosting Dr. William Hoffman, a plastic surgeon from California, from April 30 to May 4 on Saipan.

Hoffman will exclusively see patients with cleft lip or cleft palate. Consultation days are scheduled for April 30 to May 1, with surgeries taking place from May 2 to May 4.

Those who are interested in scheduling an appointment to see Hoffman regarding a cleft lip or palate should call the Family Care Clinic at 236-8308 Ext. 3316. (PR)





REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-18-2009

For: Local Publication and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date:

February 23, 2018 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after January 16, 2018, at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 23, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 23, 2018.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 09, 2018.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh Chairperson, Board of Directors /s/ Christopher A. Concepcion Managing Director

18 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

Castro freezes Cuban private sector, throws future in doubt

HAVANA (AP)—Two years after taking office, President Raul Castro widened the niche for private enterprise in Cuba's economy. state-dominated Capitalism came pouring in.

Slowly at first, then gaining speed, spare rooms for rent became rental homes, which became boutique hotels. Backyard cafes became elegant restaurants and bustling nightclubs, backed with millions in capital from the prosperous Cuban diaspora in Miami, Latin America and Spain. English tutors started citywide private after-school programs. And the booming private economy reached into

the Communist-led bureaucracy—paying off inspectors, buying stolen state goods and recruiting talented employees with salaries dwarfing those in the public sector.

Eight years later, on the verge of leaving office, Castro has thrown the brakes on private enterprise in Cuba again, warning of the rapid pace of change and criminal activity. The decision has raised fundamental questions about the nation's economic path.

The Cuban government proclaimed in August that it was putting a temporary halt on new licenses for bed-andbreakfasts, restaurants and

other businesses until it could issue new regulations to control illegality. Entrepreneurs whispered about new regulations coming in a month, maybe two. But summer

the new year, and six months later, Cuba's private economy remains frozen.

The state-run economy responsible for 70 percent to 80

stretched into fall, fall into percent of GDP is stagnant. A once-promising workerowned cooperative sector has shown little recent growth. Cubans are increasingly wondering when the private economy will be allowed to grow again, and, more broadly, how their government intends to deliver on promises of a sustainable, prosperous socialist system.

Trump infrastructure plan seeks to shift burden to states

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.

(AP)—When President Donald Trump called for a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure investment in his State of the Union address, he didn't pledge that the federal government actually would provide that much money for roads, bridges, rail and waterways.

To the contrary, Trump's

plan counts on state and local to qualify for a share of his governments working with private investors to come up with much of the cash.

Exactly how that would work remained unclear Wednesday, as state transportation officials noted that Trump's proposal could put more pressure on them to raise taxes, fees and tolls just

infrastructure program. Questions surrounding Trump's plan are likely to leave costly projects, such as plans for a new Hudson River tunnel connecting New York and New Jersey, in limbo.

"The Trump administration has issued a charge that sounds a lot like 'show me the money," said Missouri Department of Transportation Director Patrick McKenna, who is president of the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials.

In his speech Tuesday night, Trump called upon Congress to pass a plan "that generates at least \$1.5 trillion" for infrastructure.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPORALS DPW-18-RFP-003

TOPOGRAPHIC AND AS-BUILT SURVEY OF VARIOUS PROJECT IN PRECINCT III, FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed **Proposals for Topographic and As-Built Survey of Various Project in Precinct III, for Roads and Drainage Improvement, Saipan**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-305 of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after February 2, 2018 at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Conference 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office on February 20, 2018. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technica Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time February 27, 2018.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:e

- Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff 25%
- 2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects 35%
- Project Approach 25%
- 4. Schedule of Completion 15%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW-18-RFP-003". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:30 a.m. local time, March 2, 2018. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:30 a.m. local time, <u>March</u> 2, 2018, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 2, 2018 – AND must be received no later than March 13, 2018. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for

Discussion there from, shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from in order of preference of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

Acting, Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan Director, Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to an increase in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 10.30%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has increased from \$0.18231 per kWh to **\$0.20109** per kWh effective **February 1, 2018.**

BASE RATES

	RES	<u>SIDENTIAL</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>MMERCIAL</u>	<u>G0V</u>	<u>'ERNMENT</u>		<u>MP*</u>
1 Monthly Customer Charge 2 Base Rates Per kWh:	\$	7.00	\$	10.00	\$	10.00	\$	9.06
<u>KWH LEVELS</u> 1) 1 to 35 2) 351 to 1,20 3) 1,201 and over	0 \$	0.0210 0.0970 0.1580	\$ \$ \$	0.1130 0.1130 0.1130	\$ \$ \$	0.1240 0.1240 0.1240	\$ \$ \$	0.1070 0.1070 0.1070
*Municipal Pumping								

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	KF2	<u>IDENTIAL</u>	COM	<u>MERCIAL</u>	GUVI	<u>ERNIMENT</u>	MP	_
Current FAC (Effective 02/01/18)	\$	0.20109	\$	0.20109	\$	0.20109	\$	0.20109
Previous FAC (12/01/17 - 01/31/18)	\$	0.18231	\$	0.18231	\$	0.18231	\$	0.18231
*Municipal Pumping								

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.

Fixture Charge:

The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the **Energy Charge:**

Total Streetlight Charge: The Total Streetlight Charge is the sum of the applicable Fixture Charge and the applicable Energy

			Monthly Charge									
<u>FIXTURE TYPE</u>	<u>WATTS</u>	<u>KWH</u>		TURE ARGE		ENERGY NRGE		TOTAL Charge		- ENERGY HARGE		TOTAL Charge
1 Long Arm	250	101	\$	11.67	\$	22.43	\$	34.10	\$	31.72	\$	43.39
2 Short Arm	175	71	\$	8.33	\$	15.77	\$	24.10	\$	22.30	\$	30.63
3 LED	140	57	\$	10.83	\$	12.66	\$	23.49	\$	17.90	\$	28.73
				(a)		(b)		(a+b)		(c)		(a+c)
RES = Residentia	RES = Residential COM = Commercial S.Light = Streetlight											

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% o	f Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	\$	40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments) - Temporarily Suspended	\$	1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection	\$	550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole	\$	200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	\$	210.00
7	Disconnection Notice - Temporarily Suspended	\$	15.00
8	Meter Change Out	\$	95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	\$	135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	\$	90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	\$	75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	\$	110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	\$	45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	\$	60.00

February 2018

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 19 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

FBI in public fight with Trump over releasing Russia memo

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a remarkably public clash of wills with the White House, the FBI declared Wednesday it has "grave concerns" about the accuracy of a classified memo on the Russia election investigation that President Donald Trump wants released.

The FBI's short and sharp statement, its first on the issue, laid bare a Trump administration conflict that had previously played out mostly behind closed doors in meetings between top Justice Department and White House officials.

"As expressed during our initial review, we have grave concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo's accuracy," the FBI said.

Further complicating the memo's release, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee said late Wednesday that his committee's vote to release the memo was now invalid because it was "secretly altered" by Republicans who wrote it. California Rep. Adam Schiff said in a letter to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes that committee Democrats had discovered changes that were made after the panel voted Monday to send it to Trump

"The White House has therefore been reviewing a document since Monday night that the committee never approved for public release," Schiff said in the letter.

Schiff did not detail the changes, and a spokesman for Nunes did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump has five days from the vote to review the document, and if he doesn't object then Congress can release it.



A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service **JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

ONE (1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description can be obtained from Karidat main office at Chalan Piao. Documents required: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resumé, current police clearance and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE. **CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 AT 4:30 P.M.**

Immigration authorities detail plan for courthouse arrests

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Federal immigration authorities formalized a policy Wednesday to send deportation agents to federal, state and local courthouses to make arrests, dismissing complaints from judges and advocacy groups that it instills fear among crime victims, witnesses and family members.

The two-page directive from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it will enter courthouses only for specific targets, such as convicted criminals, gang members, public safety threats and immigrants who have been previously deported or ordered to leave. Family, friends and witnesses won't be picked up for deportation but ICE leaves a caveat for "special circumstances."

The policy, signed by ICE acting director Thomas Homan, says immigration agents should generally avoid arrests in non-criminal areas of the court, like family court and small claims, unless it supervisor approves.

ICE—in a not-so-subtle jab at "sanctuary cities" that limit work with immigration authorities—said "increasing unwillingness of some jurisdictions to cooperate with ICE in the safe and orderly transfer of targeted aliens inside their prisons and jails has necessitated additional atlarge arrests."



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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-5600 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-18

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRRUARY 09, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROCUREMENT & DELIVERY OF THREE (3) 2018 PICK-UP TRUCKS: 2DR, AUTO TRANS, 4WD, STANDARD BED, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS, COLOR-WHITE, OTHER FEATURES AS PER **FACTORY SPECIFICATIONS. LOCKABLE FITTED BED TOOL BOX** TO BE INCLUDED. 2 UNITS ARE FOR THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ONE (1) UNIT IS FOR TINIAN **INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE** TO DELIVER THE VEHICLES TO THEIR DESTINATIONS.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-18". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE. BIDDERS SHALL GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLES WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM AWARD OF THIS BID. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SEND VIA EMAIL TO atudela@cpa.gov.mp ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 6, 2018.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020, §40-50-1015, & §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, FINANCIAL INTEREST, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR







20 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

Morality push may outlaw sex outside marriage in Indonesia

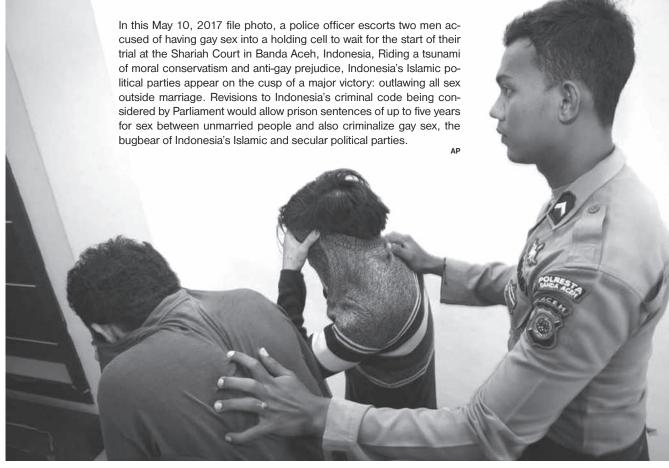
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)— Riding a tsunami of moral conservatism and anti-gay prejudice, Indonesia's Islamic political parties appear on the cusp of a major victory: outlawing all sex outside marriage.

Revisions to Indonesia's criminal code being considered by Parliament would allow prison sentences of up to five years for sex between unmarried people. Those changes would also criminalize gay sex, the bugbear of Indonesia's Islamic and secular political parties.

Rights groups and legal experts fear a profound setback to human rights and privacy in Indonesia, one of the world's largest democracies, and the spread of vigilantism, already common in parts of the sprawling Muslim-majority nation of more than 250 million people. They are racing to organize opposition. An online petition launched this week has gathered more than 20,000 signatures.

"Indonesia, whose constitution guarantees human rights and has ratified many human rights covenants, will be ridiculed by the world for creating a law that is potentially violating many of those rights," said Said Muhammad Isnur, head of advocacy at the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute Foundation.

While the possible criminalization of sex between un-



married consenting adults has grabbed attention, the revised criminal code, which has nearly 800 articles, also contains changes that could weaken checks and balances in Indonesia's young democracy. One article potentially makes criticism of the president defamation and other articles could be used to weaken the Corruption Eradication Commission, one

public institutions.

Asrul Sani, a lawmaker from the Islamic-based United Development Party, has told reporters that a 25-member parliamentary working committee has agreed on nearly all the articles in the revised code. It and another Islamic party are seeking longer prison sentences for gay sex in circumstances that involve of Indonesia's most effective force, public acts or pornog-

raphy and that is still being argued, he said.

Statements from different committee members indicate there isn't total agreement but a majority of parties appear to have swung behind at least criminalization of gay

sex. Bambang Soesatyo, the speaker of Parliament and a lawmaker from the major secular party Golkar, said same-sex relationships should be criminalized because they could "corrupt the morality of the nation." A few politicians outside the committee have raised concerns about the fundamental threat to privacy.

One of the obstacles in the way of the Islamic parties is President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's power of veto. But with provincial elections due this year and a presidential race in 2019, it's unclear whether Jokowi is willing to risk political capital on protecting a hated and misunderstood minority or being seen as soft on morality issues.

"The Islamic parties are really using this issue as their marketing going into the political years, this year and next year," said Bivitri Susantri, a constitutional law expert who helped establish the Indonesian Center of Law and Policy Studies.

"The only thing we can do is to push the government, the president, to stop this," she said. "Because if we see how the political parties, both the secular ones and the Islamic ones discuss this, I think this draft law will be passed as it is now."

Islamic parties make up four of the 10 factions in Indonesia's Parliament and due to the popular vote threshold being raised to 4 percent, are at risk of losing their seats in Parliament next year if they can't rouse their bases.

PH anti-graft chief defies Duterte order in standoff

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The head of a key Philippine anti-graft agency on Wednesday defied an order by President Rodrigo Duterte's office to suspend her deputy for allegedly disclosing confidential information to the media about an investigation into Duterte's alleged undeclared wealth.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales said the order by Duterte's office for the 90day suspension of Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang is "patently unconstitutional" and would endanger the constitutionally guaranteed independence of her agency, which investigates officials for alleged corruption.

It was not immediately clear how the legal standoff will be resolved between the brashtalking Duterte and Morales, a former Supreme Court justice known for her tough stance against corruption and for the rule of law.

Duterte's legal adviser warned officials could face criminal sanctions if they refuse to enforce or impede

the enforcement of the president's legal order unless a court invalidates it.

"The Ombudsman will thus not allow herself to betray her sworn duty to uphold the constitution by recognizing what is patently unconstitutional," Morales said of the suspension order. "It has become clear that the act of the Office of the President ... was not an inadvertent error but a clear affront to the Supreme Court and an impairment of the constitutionally enshrined inde-Ombudsman.

Morales cited a 2014 ruling in which she said the Supreme Court "categorically declared unconstitutional the administrative disciplinary jurisdiction of the president over deputy ombudsmen."

Opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV said Duterte's order was a ground for the president's impeachment. "This is another Duterte tactic that's meant to bully democratic institutions into submission so he could go on with his

dictatorial and corrupt ways," Trillanes said.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr., a lawyer, argued that Duterte has the power to discipline Carandang and other government officials and denied that the president was bullying the anti-graft official. Carandang, who faces charges of grave misconduct and disclosing false information, revealed confidential information to the media which was false, Roque said.

Last October, an angry pendence of the Office of the Duterte said he would not cooperate in an investigation being led by Carandang of undeclared bank accounts with huge deposits that Duterte allegedly maintained with his daughter when he was still a city mayor.

Duterte has denied any wrongdoing and publicly vowed to resign if anyone proves he or any of his children were involved in corruption. He won the presidency last year with a large margin on a promise to eradicate crime and graft.

ASIAN BRIEFS

North Korean flag flies in South before Olympic Games opens

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP)—In a rare sight, North Korean flags flew in South Korea on Thursday as the South prepared for the Winter Olympics that has brought a temporary lull in tensions surrounding the North's nuclear program. The Olympic village in Gangneung turned into a selfie site as volunteer workers posed under a North Korean flag that has been raised in the country for the first time since a hockey tournament in April last vear. North Korean flags were also raised at the other athletes' village in Pyeongchang and stadiums in both Pyeongchang and Gangneng, where North Korean athletes are expected to compete during the games, according to Pyeongchang's Olympic Organizing Committee. North Korea is sending 22 athletes to the games that start on Feb. 9, including 10 North Korean skiers and skaters who are expected to arrive in the South later on Thursday via a rare flight between the war-separated rivals. Twelve North Korean female ice hockey players are already in the South practicing with their South Korean teammates for a unified team that will compete during the Olympics.

Fire kills 11, injures 3 at home for elderly poor in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A fire engulfed a home for elderly welfare recipients in northern Japan, killing 11 people, Japanese police said Thursday. The fire broke out before midnight Wednesday in Sapporo, the main city on the northern main island of Hokkaido. Sapporo police said five residents were rescued. Three of them were being treated at a hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening, they said. Police so

far identified the 11 victims only as eight men and three women. All 16 residents at the facility have been accounted for, said a police press official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to speak on the record. Footage on public broadcaster NHK showed flames and smoke pouring out of the three-story building as firefighters battled the blaze. The cause of the fire is under investigation. The building was a former three-story inn that had been rented by the operator for use as a group home for the poor, and was about 50 years old, Kyodo News reported. The building lacked sprinklers, which were not compulsory for the type of facility, Kyodo said.

Australia secret service secures mislaid classified papers

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian secret service officers on Thursday secured thousands of classified documents that were sold with two secondhand filing cabinets and have been the basis of news reports by Australia's national broadcaster. Australian Security Intelligence Organization officers entered Australian Broadcasting Corp. bureaus in Parliament House in the capital of Canberra and in the city of Brisbane with safes in the early morning hours, ABC said. Both ASIO and ABC have access to the safes that remain on ABC premises, said reporter Matthew Doran, who was in the Parliament House bureau when the safes arrived. ABC revealed Wednesday it had thousands of Cabinet documents that had been found in two filing cabinets sold from a Canberra secondhand furniture store. The cabinets were sold at a discount price because they were locked and no one could find keys, ABC reported.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 **21**

World

Syria's Kurds push US to stop Turkish assault on key enclave

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's Kurdish militia is growing frustrated with its patron, the United States, and is pressing it to do more to stop Turkey's assault on a key stronghold in Syria.

The issue reflects a deeper concern among the Kurds over their alliance with the Americans, which proved vital to defeating the Islamic State group in Syria. The Kurds fear that ultimately they and their dream of self-rule will be the losers in the big powers' play over influence in Syria. Already the U.S. is in a tough spot, juggling between the interests of the Kurds, its only ally in war-torn Syria, and its relations with Turkey, a key NATO ally.

The Kurdish militia views

defending the Kurdish enclave of Afrin as an existential fight to preserve their territory. Afrin has major significance it's one of the first Kurdish areas to rise up against President Bashar Assad and back self-rule, a base for senior fighters who pioneered the alliance with the Americans and a key link in their efforts to form a contiguous entity along Turkey's border. The offensive, which began Jan. 20, has so far killed more than 60 civilians and dozens of fighters on both sides, and displaced thousands.

"How can they stand by and watch?" Aldar Khalil, a senior Kurdish politician said of the U.S.-led coalition against IS. "They should meet their obligations toward this force that

participated with them (in the fight against terrorism.) We consider their unclear and indecisive positions as a source of concern."

Khalil, one of the architects of the Kurds' self-administration, and three other senior Kurdish officials told The Associated Press that they have conveyed their frustration over what they consider a lack of decisive action to stop the Afrin assault to U.S. and other Western officials. They said U.S. officials have made confusing statements in public. One of the officials who agreed to discuss private meetings on condition of anonymity said some U.S. comments even amounted to tacit support for the assault.

nearly a year of little attention

by his administration to the

world's second most populous

continent. Concerns have been

widespread over proposed

deep cuts to U.S. foreign aid

and a shift from humanitarian

assistance to counterterrorism

use the vulgar language, while

others present say he did.

Trump has said he didn't

African leaders nearly demanded public apology from Trump

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—African leaders this week came close to demanding that President Donald Trump publicly apologize for his vulgar remark about the continent "that defies all forms of diplomatic etiquette," according to a draft declaration obtained by The Associated Press.

The draft, created during an African Union summit on Sunday and Monday, says heads of state and government are "deeply appalled" by Trump's reported comparison of African countries to a dirty toilet.

It warns that the strategic partnership between Africa and the U.S. is at risk because

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ. (CNMIBar No. F0364) LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC D'Torres Building, Garapan P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070 Email: mnevanagelista8@gmail.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Jeon Seon Nam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EON SEON NAM,) \
Plaintiff,) Civil Action No) 17-0290
WOO, JE CHUN, Defendant.) SUMMONS

TO: WOO, JE CHUN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, which has already been filed against you, within twenty-one (21) days after the date of the 4th publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of Michael Norita Evangelista, LLC., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is <u>not</u> necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court: DATED 12/21/17

/s/ Clerk of Court of Trump's "racist and xenophobic behavior."

The African leaders appear to have changed their mind on issuing the draft declaration because of a Trump letter to them last week pledging his "deep respect" and saying Secretary of State Rex Tillerson would make an "extended visit" to the continent in March, his first in that role. The letter emerged after Trump met with Rwanda's president and new African Union chairman Paul Kagame at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland last week.

Many African leaders had been outraged by Trump's comment last month, after

RENE C. HOLMES LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC 2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose Village P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950-1127 Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427 Facsimile Nos.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER	Civil Action No. 18-0027
F THE ESTATE OF	NOTICE OF HEARING/
ite dilitity of the	NOTICE TO CREDITORS
CHUNG,) Date: March 01, 2018 Time: 9:00 A.M. Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Cama
Deceased.) Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Cama N

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HER ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Alejandro Matsumoto, has filed a <u>Petition For</u> <u>Probate of Will, Appointment of Executor and Letters Testamentary in the above-entitled Estate</u> <u>proceeding pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 15.</u>

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on March 1, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 220, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to MMI R. Prob. P 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or her Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Rene C. Holmes at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO ORDERED this 22nd day of January 2018.

/s/ IOSEPH N. CAMACHO. Associate ludge



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-RSQ-18-014

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water mains, sewer mains (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrade to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specification, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, electrical inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Island of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CUC. All work is subject to EPA & CUC review and pro-approval

The RSQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. The RSQ package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective firms must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RSQ 18-014, Request for Statement of Qualifications" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2018. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

All responses to this RSQ should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business and Engineering license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Eaders Laws

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 23, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address nicollette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marecela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO Executive Director MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Officer



NOTICE OF APPLICATION DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950 TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of February 2, 2018 NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	ТҮРЕ	STATUS
1. Phoenix Enterprises Inc. dba Phoenix Marine Sports	1/5/2018 SLRm-2018-X-034 (Formerly SLRm-2015-X-036)	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkeling & Kayaking	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 1/22/2018
2. CNS, Inc.	1/5/2018 SS/LR-99-X-07	Marine Sports Renewal Jet ski	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 1/31/2018
3. Saipan Crew Boats Inc.	1/23/2018 SPI-2018-X-035	Drydock	Sea Port, Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved - 1/24/2018
4. BSEA, Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	1/25/2018 SLRm-2012-X-010	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 1/30/2018
5. Sea-Lago Inc.	1/29/2018 SPI-2018-X-036	Drydock	Able Dock Port, Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved - 1/31/2018
6. Mobil Oil	1/30/2018 RSm-2018-X-0125	Signage for Public Notice	Rota	Shoreline	Under Review*
7. IRIE, Inc. dba Blue Palms Dive Service	1/26/2018 RLRm-2018-X-0126	Marine Sports New Diving & Snorkeling	Rota Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
8. Rubin's Corp. dba Rota SCUBA Center	1/29/2018 RLRm-2018-X-0129	Marine Sports New SCUBA, Snorkeling, & Fishing	Rota Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
9. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	1/30/2018 SLRm-2010-X-005	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 2/1/2018
10. MP Holdings dba Saipan Vegas	2/1/2018 SMS-2017-X-098 Amendment 2018-1	Proposed additional 48 units & swimming pool	Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Major Siting Amendment	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations require all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

22 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Off The Wall

Bill targets owners of trespassing fowl

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)— Why did the chicken cross the road? And did it have permission?

The New Hampshire Legislature is considering a bill that would make trespassing fowl a violation, not for the chicken, but for its owners. Under the proposal, anyone who knowingly, recklessly or negligently allows their domestic fowl to enter someone else's property without permission can be convicted of a violation if the birds damage crops or property

The law already makes such trespassing illegal when it comes to sheep, goats, cows, horses or pigs, and the bill's sponsor says fowl shouldn't be exempt.

While a constituent's frustration with a neighbor's ducks spurred the legislation, Loudon Republican Rep. Michael Moffett told a House Committee on Tuesday he also has heard from a man who claims his neighbor has used chickens as a "form of harassment and provocation."

"It does come down to property rights, which is important," Moffett said. "People, wherever you live, should be free from having your property invaded or encroached upon by animals or birds from neighboring property who are not being taken care of.

"You've heard the saying, 'birds of feather flock together,' which is fine, but a lot of us don't think it's fine when flock they together onto a neighbor's property and wreak havoc."

Committee members raised questions including whether the proposal would apply to someone who has a duck pond for domestic ducks but also attracts wild ducks.

"How do we determine whether it's a wild duck or a domestic duck that's going across the property?" said Rep. Larry Laflamme, D-Berlin.

"Chickens are clearly domesticated, ducks are kinda a gray area," Moffett said.

Earl Tuson, a Loudon vegetable farmer who does not raise fowl, opposed the bill, saying the current law was clearly directed at livestock that, unlike chickens and ducks. could cause considerable damage. He said the bill could lead to further harassment of farmers by neighbors who don't understand agriculture.

"Farms across the state are increasingly coming into closer contact with residential development, and the occupants of those developments are frequently unaware of normal and customary agricultural activities," he said. "Everyone loves eating bacon until they move into next to the pig farm."

Science & Technology

Stuck with a lousy Wi-Fi?

By JIM ROSSMAN

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

I was visiting some friends at their home this week, and the topic of Wi-Fi coverage came up in conversation.

Their broadband router was in a home office on the far end of the house, and they were having issues surfing the internet from their living room a few rooms away. The Wi-Fi signal had trouble traveling through several walls.

As we were looking at a laptop, I showed them how to check the transmission rate of they were receiving the signal at just 7 Mbps.

As a comparison, in my living room as I type this column, I'm sitting 10 feet from my router and receiving data at 458 Mbps.

That's hardly a fair comparison. I've upgraded my wireless router, and my friends are using the router provided by their internet provider.

I have the same internet provider, and when I use the Wi-Fi provided by my broadband modem, I re-

their Wi-Fi router. It turns out ceive data at 54 Mbps.

So adding a better router increased my throughput significantly.

What's the lesson here?

You are not stuck with the Wi-Fi router included with your broadband internet service.

You can buy a much better one. All you need is an open Ethernet port on the back of your internet modem.

Unbox the new router, plug it into the back of your router and set it up according to the instructions. Make sure you set it up in "bridge mode."

Al in the court: When algorithms rule on jail time

CLEVELAND (AP)—The centuries-old process of releasing defendants on bail, long the province of judicial discretion, is getting a major assist ... courtesy of artificial intelligence.

In Cleveland and a growing number of other local and state courts, judges are now guided by computer algorithms before ruling whether criminal defendants can return to everyday life, or remain locked up awaiting trial.

Experts say the use of these risk assessments may be the biggest shift in courtroom decision-making since American judges began accepting social science and other expert evidence more than a century ago. Christo-

Weighing the risks of outdated software

pher Griffin, a research director at Harvard Law School's Access to Justice Lab, calls the new digital tools "the next step in that revolution."

Critics, however, worry that such algorithms might end up supplanting judges' own judgment, and possibly even perpetuate biases in ostensibly neutral form.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

An island without gas? That's happening in **North Carolina**

OCRACOKE, N.C. (AP)—

It's a good thing Ocracoke Island in North Carolina is small enough to walk or bike around. The island along the Outer Banks has lost its only gas station. Hyde County manager Bill Rich tells The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, Virginia, that the fuel provider for Ocracoke Station shut off the pumps because the owner couldn't pay the bills. The station was damaged by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Rich says the owner has spent his money repairing the station while he awaits reimbursement from his insurance company. Residents now must take the ferry to the mainland to refuel. But the good news is that a tank of gas can last for months on the small island. Rich says the county is working with the owner to reopen the station.

Couple, married 70 years, renew vowsthis time in church

UXBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)— A Massachusetts couple have finally gotten the church wedding they always wanted—70 years after first tying the knot. The Telegram & Gazette reports 90-year-old Edward Gouin and 89-year-old Lena Gouin renewed their vows Saturday at the Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Uxbridge thanks to some careful planning by their family. Edward is Catholic and Lena is Congregationalist so a wedding in a church was barred when they were first married. Instead, they were wed in a church rectory.

Attitudes have since changed. Edward says, "Today, it can happen." The World War II veteran says the secrets to a long marriage are never go to bed angry and kiss your wife every time you leave the house. The couple have three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Maine city's attempt to break beer can record comes up short

BANGOR, Maine (AP)— Residents in Bangor, Maine, came just 28 beer cans short of setting a world record. Attendees at the city's annual Chamber Dinner last week were attempting to break the record for simultaneously opening beer cans. WABI-TV reports the vast majority of the beers were supplied by Geaghan Brothers Brewing, and hundreds of attendees did the honors of opening them at the same time. The Brewer-based beer maker says it sent video of the attempt to Guinness World Records and got word that the effort did not break the record. The record was set in Japan in 2016 with 1,149 cans opened simultaneously. The Bangor attempt managed 1,122, which is a record for the city itself.

Owner receives letter granting dog unemployment benefits

SAUGATUCK, Mich. (AP)—Michael Ryder had been approved for \$360 every week in Michigan unemployment benefits—until the state learned he'd been dogging it at the Detroit-area restaurant chain where he supposedly

worked. Ryder is a German Shepherd owned by attorney Michael Haddock on the other side of the state in Saugatuck. WZZM-TV reports that Haddock received a benefits letter addressed to "Michael Ryder" from Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency. The station says Haddock contacted the agency about the letter. The agency says its computer system sent the letter, but the claim later was flagged as suspicious and denied. Investigations administrator Tim Kolar wrote in a tongue-in-cheek email that he knows "firsthand it is rare for 'man's best friend' to contribute financially to the household and that will continue in this instance."

Loaded grenade launcher left at Florida **Goodwill store**

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP)— Talk about one heckuva an explosive donation.

Authorities say a grenade launcher, loaded with a live grenade, was left with other donated items at a Florida Goodwill store. The Bradenton Herald reports that employees at a Goodwill store near Tampa reported the weapon on Sunday. The Manatee County Sheriff's Office says the store manager told deputies that the grenade launcher had come in a shipment from another store several days earlier. The employees at the other location said they sent it along because they didn't know what it was. Deputies say they disposed of the active grenade in a Hazmat locker, and the launcher was stored in the agency's property room. It's not clear who donated the items.

: I use Microsoft **TECH Q&A**

Office 2007, which I load from a disk instead of my hard drive. After a recent Windows 10 update, most of the icons for my Word documents changed from a blue "W" to an orange "MS."

When I click on those icons, a message tells me that I don't have Office on my PC, then offers to let me try or buy Office 2013.

I checked on Office 2007, and learned that, while it will continue to work, there will be no more security updates for it.

What can I do?

A: The way you load Office 2007 is probably the cause. The larger question is whether you should continue to use that program.

Try installing Office 2007 loading it from another disk That way, Windows 10 will be able to verify that you have a copy of Office, and will allow your Word files to be opened by it.

But should you keep using Office 2007 now that it no longer receives security updates? It depends on your appetite for risk.

If you continue to use Office 2007, you might be the victim of a malware attack in the future (you can read about past malware attacks on OfBy STEVE ALEXANDER

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002;

email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

fice at tinyurl.com/ycbnbzyr and tinyurl.com/yd2o82e8). But it's not a clear-cut case of "replace or else."

A recent survey showed that many businesses continue to use Office 2007, despite the risk (see tinyurl.com/ vaaaroac).

The safer course is to buy the newest version of the program, Office 2016, which will receive security updates until October 2025. But it's your call.

Q: Windows updates on your hard disk instead of seem to be hopelessly stuck on my 64-bit Windows 7 PC. I tried a software fix from your column (see tinyurl.com/yc7m5ekn), but it didn't solve the problem.

In addition, my browsers sometimes can't reach the internet, my two computer screens occasionally go dark and my antivirus software won't update. What should I do?

A: Run the free version of the Malwarebytes program to see whether your multiple

problems are being caused by malicious software (see tinyurl.com/jsdacdk).

After that, try Microsoft's recently altered fix for Windows 7 updates that get "stuck" (see tinyurl.com/y79u5ekz). In addition, update your PC's software drivers, which enable PC components to communicate with Windows 7 (see tinyurl. com/hgr8zab).

The drivers should also be available from the PC manufacturer's website if you can't get them via Windows 7.

O: Some people in my senior cooperative have hearing aids with Bluetooth receivers. Is there a device that will connect to a single TV and transmit the audio to all our Bluetooth hearing aids?

A: There are intermediary devices that connect to a TV and rebroadcast the audio signal to Bluetooth-equipped hearing aids. But none of them work with all brands of hearing aids. (For details, see tinyurl.com/ybkubnfp).

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018 23

Life & Style

Rose McGowan to Harvey Weinstein:

There was no consen



Rose McGowan poses for a portrait in New York on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018, to promote her book "Brave."

ose McGowan says it's time for Harvey Weinstein to drop his story about a "consensual" relationship. "He can fall off the planet," the

activist said during an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. "My statement is truth. My statement is reality. Stop saying it's consensual, you pig! You know it's not true."

Weinstein issued a statement Tuesday that quoted an alleged email from Mc-Gowan's former manager, saying that the actress had spoken of a consensual encounter with him. Weinstein is accused by multiple women of sexual misconduct, revelations that helped lead to allegations against Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and dozens of other men.

McGowan, 44, is promoting a trilogy (a "holy trinity without the 'holy," she calls it) of new projects this week, including the album "Planet 9," the E! docuseries "Citizen Rose" and the mem-

Her book includes a graphic account of being assaulted by the movie producer, whom she calls "the monster," in a hotel 20 years ago. Besides her comment to the AP, McGowan issued a statement Wednesday saying that his remarks were part of an ongoing effort to "smear" her.

"It is an affront not only to Rose but to the hundreds of women who have come forward with their stories of harassment, sexual abuse and rape perpetrated by Mr. Weinstein and those like him," the statement reads in part. "This is a sad, pathetic old-fashioned sexist attempt to undermine obvious truth and the gaslighting will no longer be tolerated."

McGowan signed a deal for "Brave"

in 2016, well before the current #MeToo movement, but says she knew all along the world would change—in part because she would change it. "Brave" describes her survival of what she calls a lifetime of attempted brainwashing, whether the Christian-influenced cult her family belonged to as a child to her years in Hollywood.

"This is not a tell-all," she writes. "This is a tell-it-how-it-is."

McGowan is known for such films as "Scream" and "Going All the Way," and for the TV series "Charmed." But she says she's done with acting and describes her time on screen as "just a job" and scorns the recent reboot of "Charmed" as an idea "so flaccid." She did enjoy directing "Dawn," a short film about an innocent girl's murder she has likened to her time in the movie business.

And she is anxious to work in other art forms. A fan of such authors as Isabel Allende and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, whose "Love in the Time of Cholera" she re-reads each year, McGowan says she's thinking about writing a "fiction-ish" story about an 11-year-old girl. During her interview, she also spoke of her love for visual art and music and of the liberating feeling of working behind a camera instead of front of it.

She also has some thoughts about the Time magazine cover story on "The Silence Breakers."

Here are highlights:

ON KNOWING 'BRAVE' WOULD COME **OUT AMID THE #MeTOO MOVEMENT:**

"Of course I did. I'm the architect, how would I not know? My book was never meant to come out to deaf ears. I always had to smash the Hollywood propaganda machine first; this was not an accident. This was not a case of being the first one to speak. This was me being behind the scenes."

ON HOW IT FELT TO TELL HER STORY:

"It was so traumatizing to write in a lot of ways, just because you write a passage and you have to go to dinner and put on a good girlfriend face or human face and go out into the world and really you want to do is bend over and scream. What everybody throughout the writing, people that I know, would say, 'Is it cathartic?' and I would say, 'No, not yet, I'm waiting for that day.

ON NEVER ACTING AGAIN:

"I've done enough public service in that form. I've done enough. My job was to teach a core group of followers and fans and people that responded how 'to feel.' I did it. They understood. We're moving on now to the brain. It's not anybody's job to keep me in the past. It's nobody's job.'

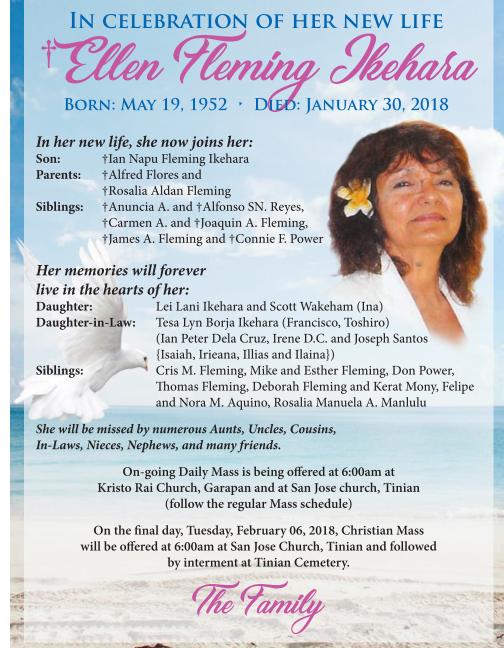
ON WHY SHE WON'T RUN FOR OFFICE:

"I'm global, my work is global and my work is outside of the system. And my work is to look at the power structure. I don't believe in borders. I don't believe in laws, especially in laws related to women's bodies."

ON HER DISLIKE OF TIME MAGA-ZINE'S PHRASE 'THE SILENCE BREAK-ERS' FOR ITS PERSON OF THE YEAR **COVER STORY:**

"The silence breakers.' How dare you. You just didn't listen. That's a misnomer. It's erroneous and it runs a false narrative. Like as if all of a sudden we all just gained the guts to talk. No stupid, you just gained the guts to listen."





Porn star weaves tangled tale on alleged affair with Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—The latest twists in the tangled tale of what happened between Donald Trump and an adult film star more than a decade ago have the woman both firmly denying an extramarital affair with Trump and then playing coy about that denial.

Stormy Daniels, the woman who allegedly had a sexual relationship with a then-married Donald Trump in 2006, said in a statement issued Tuesday afternoon that the alleged affair never occurred.

By that night, however, Daniels appeared to disown the statement in an appearance on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!," saying she didn't know where it came from and the signature didn't look like hers.

In the hours after the show, Daniels' lawyer and public relations manager both reaffirmed her commitment to the earlier denial. They also said she was cancelling a planned Thursday interview on ABC's "The View."

Daniels' real name is Stephanie Clifford. Her tale of what happened with Trump at a celebrity golf tournament in Nevada became a point of fascination after The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this month that the president's longtime personal



lawyer had arranged a \$130,000 payment to Clifford in October 2016 to keep her from publicly discussing the alleged sexual encounter during the presidential campaign.

The lawyer, Michael Cohen, has

denied there was an affair. Neither he nor Clifford has addressed whether she was paid \$130,000, and, if so, why.

On Kimmel's show, Clifford ducked most questions about the alleged affair by either remaining

silent or cracking jokes.

Gina Rodriguez, a publicist for Clifford, said she canceled Clifford's scheduled appearance on "The View" after a previous guest questioned whether she should be making public appearances. Rodriguez said in a statement to The Associated Press that Clifford signed the statement denying an affair with Trump in front of her and Clifford's lawyer, Keith Davidson.

DJ who lost groping lawsuit to

Taylor Swift in new radio job

GREENWOOD, Miss. (AP)-

The radio host fired after he lost a

groping lawsuit to superstar Taylor

Swift says he is "very grateful" for

a new gig at a Mississippi station.

David Mueller, 56, told the

Greenwood Commonwealth that

he had difficulty finding work in

a big-city radio market. He started

his job Monday in Greenwood,

Actress doubles down on abuse allegation against Scott Baio

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Nicole Eggert on Wednesday doubled down on her allegations that former co-star Scott Baio sexually abused her when she was underage—accusations that Baio adamantly denied in a separate interview.

Eggert said in a taped interview on "The Dr. Oz Show" that she was in a car with Baio at his home when she was 14 and "he reached out and started touching me, below the belt, in the female parts." She said Baio made it clear that nobody could know, that it was illegal and "everybody could lose their job, even myself ... so I stayed silent."

The "Charles in Charge" actress, who also made the allegations on "Megyn Kelly Today" on Tuesday, said Baio had sexual intercourse with her when she was 17; the age of consent in California is 18. "He sort of manipulated me in the way of, 'Let me get you ready for boys your own age," Eggert said. "I agreed to that. It was awkward to say the least." Baio is more than 11 years older than Eggert.

In a statement given to Oz's show, Baio's representative, Brian Glicklich, said: "Nicole Eggert was well past the age of 18 when she came to Scott Baio looking for a sexual experience. Given this, her other vague claims, which Scott has consistently denied, cannot have any merit."

Baio said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America" that "false allegations" against him have "got to stop" for the sake of his wife and 10-year-old daughter.

He said his daughter "does not need to be hearing about this from friends at school."

Baio said that during a consensual encounter when she was of legal age, Eggert told him that she wanted him to "be her first" sexual partner. He said they he remained friends after that encounter. He remembered Eggert as a "talented girl. We had a great time on the set. ... Everybody got along."

In a brief video interview posted by TMZ later Wednesday, Eggert said she planned to speak to police in Los Angeles. Asked on Wednesday afternoon if Eggert had done so, her lawyer, Lisa Bloom, replied by email: "No comment."

Baio returned to the spotlight during the 2016 presidential campaign as an outspoken supporter of then-candidate Donald Trump, and spoke at the Republican National Convention.

home to about 14,000 people in the rural Mississippi Delta. "I never wanted to leave radio

"I never wanted to leave radio from the moment I was out on the street with no job and no income," he said.

A federal jury determined Mueller assaulted and battered Swift by grabbing her under her skirt as they posed for a 2013 photo in Denver. Mueller, who goes by "Jackson" on air, still denies that. He began co-hosting the "Jackson and Jonbob" show Monday.

The Washington Post quotes Delta Radio CEO David Fuss saying he believes Mueller's side of the story. Delta Radio is based in Las Vegas and owns nine radio stations.

Mueller's hiring comes as the #MeToo movement draws attention to sexual assault and harassment

Fuss said Mueller sounds good on air, but allowed that his decision also was "maybe a tiny bit" about publicity.

"He is a very good on-air talent," Fuss said "It's extremely difficult to get people to come to the Mississippi Delta to work. I felt like he needed a break or a second chance."

The Greenwood newspaper reported that Delta Radio has received complaints from Taylor Swift fan groups from as far away as Sweden and Saudi Arabia.

Massachusetts casino panel: Wynn settlement was kept from us

BOSTON (AP)—Following sexual abuse allegations against casino magnate Steve Wynn, a Massachusetts Gaming Commission investigator said Wednesday information about a \$7.5 million settlement was kept from state officials when they were reviewing the suitability of his company for a casino license in 2013.

Karen Wells made the statement as the commission opened its investigation into a report by The Wall Street Journal that a number of women said they were harassed or assaulted by Wynn. One case led to a \$7.5 million settlement.

Gambling regulators in Nevada said Tuesday they also are investigating Wynn.

The 76-year-old Wynn, whose company is building a \$2.4 billion casino outside Boston, has strongly denied the allegations, which he attributed to a campaign led by his ex-wife. He resigned Saturday as finance chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Wells said she corroborated with lawyers from Wynn Resorts "that there was in fact a settlement and that it was not disclosed to investigators on advice of counsel." She said the settlement was not part of any court record.

"This was a private agreement and steps were taken to keep it from the public domain," she said.

Commission Chairman Stephen Crosby called the allegations "appalling" but said that any decision, including possibly revoking the license, would be based on facts gleaned during the commission's ongoing probe. He said the commission would not be party to impugning anyone's character without clear proof, but also wouldn't tolerate behavior "that puts the confidence in the casino operations in our state at risk."

"The people of Massachusetts have the right to know what the hell happened here," he said.

In Massachusetts, the official licensee is Wynn MA LLC, a subsidiary of Wynn Resorts. It was awarded a 15-year license to operate the sole eastern Massachusetts resort casino license. Wynn Boston Harbor is under construction in Everett outside Boston with a scheduled opening date of June 2019.

A spokesman for Wynn Boston Harbor said Wednesday in statement: "We respect the process outlined by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and will cooperate fully with the investigation. Our construction is on schedule for a 2019 opening and continues to create more than 4,000 local union trade jobs."

Both Wynn Resorts and Steve Wynn were both found suitable by gaming commission investigators. Wells said that gaming suitability investigations involving individuals "typically includes an analysis of that individual's criminal history" including any ties to organized crime or corruption.

But she said the commission has the right to consider any information, including information related to "honesty, integrity, good character or reputation."

In their 2013 report, the Massachusetts investigators said they spoke to several of Wynn's references who described him as "highly ethical," and "a perfectionist who is passionate about everything he does."

According to the 2011 state law that

legalized casino gambling in Massachusetts, a casino license is considered a "revocable privilege," and can be suspended or revoked under certain conditions, including a finding that the licensee was "unsuitable to operate a gaming establishment."

In Nevada, state gambling regulations provide grounds for disciplinary action if any activity from the licensed operator, its agents or employees is deemed "inimical to the public health, safety, morals, good order and general welfare" of Nevada residents or discrediting of the state and its gambling industry.

Regulators could potentially levy fines against the company, place conditions on its license or even revoke it.

On Monday, Republican Gov. Charlie Baker called the allegations "awful and appalling," and said if true, "Wynn would fail to meet the suitability standard under the state gaming law."

Asked if such a finding by the commission could derail the casino, Baker said it would be up to Wynn Resorts to make a decision on how to proceed.

'Black Panther' presales outpacing previous superhero movies

NEW YORK (AP)—Advance ticket sales to Marvel's "Black Panther" are outpacing all superhero movies on Fandango.

The online ticket service said Wednesday that "Black Panther" is currently outselling its previous recordholder for presale, 2016's "Batman v Superman." Following gushing early reaction from Monday night's premiere, Ryan Coogler's film is the top daily ticket-

seller on Fandango.

"Black Panther" doesn't open until Feb. 16, but anticipation is especially strong for the first superhero movie in years starring a black lead character. The premiere in Los Angeles was attended by the film's cast decked in regal African-themed attire.

Analysts are forecasting a President's Day weekend debut for "Black Panther" of at least \$100 million in North America.

Trump speech reaches 45.6M viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump reached an audience of 45.6 million people for his first State of the Union address, not enough to give him bragging rights over his predecessor.

The Nielsen company said former President Barack Obama drew 48 million people for his first State of the Union in 2010.

Trump's audience was down from the 47.7 million people who watched his address to the joint session of Congress last February.

Fox News Channel earned

the top spot among the individual networks, with 11.5 million viewers during the speech. It was the first time that Fox News, home of Trump-friendly opinion hosts like Sean Hannity, beat all of the networks for the State of the Union, although Fox also was the network of choice for Trump's address to Congress last February.

NBC (7.1 million) and CBS (7 million) fought for second place. The Fox broadcast network had 3.6 million, CNN had 3.1 million and MSNBC had 2.7 million, Nielsen said.

Diane Lane, Greg Kinnear join final season of 'House of Cards'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Diane Lane and Greg Kinnear are joining "House of Cards" for the political thriller's final season.

Netflix said they'll play siblings in the show's sixth season, which resumed production Wednesday.

"House of Cards," Netflix's first original series, halted production last October amid sexual misconduct allegations against star Kevin Spacey.

Spacey was suspended

from the show by producer Media Rights Capital after Netflix said it wouldn't continue with it if he remained. A representative for the actor said previously that he was seeking unspecified treatment.

Robin Wright, who co-starred as wife to Spacey's Francis Underwood, will be the focus of the final season. A debut date has yet to be announced.

Further details on the new characters played by Lane and Kinnear weren't available.



Republic Records suspends president after harassment claim

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Republic Records has put its president on leave after a former employee accused him of sexual harassment in an open letter posted on her website.

The company released a statement Wednesday saying Charlie Walk is on leave pending an investigation into recent allegations.

Tristan Coopersmith says Walk regularly made lewd comments to her during the year she worked for him. She also says he put his hand on her thigh and once pushed her onto a bed.

Republic Records says it has hired an independent law firm to investigate the matter and encouraged any affected employees to meet with them.

Walk's status as a cast member on Fox's "The Four" remains unclear. The show debuted earlier this month.

Arepresentative for Walk did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

National Book Awards add translation category

NEW YORK (AP)—Starting this fall, works in translation will get a spotlight at the National Book Awards. The National Book Foundation announced Wednesday that it has started a category for best translated literature, awarding a work of fiction or nonfiction translated into English and released in the U.S. The new prize should provide a boost for authors from overseas who have struggled to catch on in the U.S. The National Book Awards for decades had four competi-

tive categories: fiction, nonfiction, young people's literature and poetry. The foundation also gives out two honorary prizes at the annual November ceremony.

Prince William praises benefits of outdoor play for children

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Britain's Prince William has praised Sweden's embrace of the great outdoors, in particular the physical and mental benefits of outdoor exercise for children. Speaking Wednesday at the end of

a two-day visit to Sweden, William said that "one lesson that we will take home with us, is that children are actively encouraged to spend time outdoors, whatever the weather." During the visit, William and the Duchess of Cambridge sought to meet Swedes from all walks of life. At a medical institute, they discussed with academics Sweden's approach to managing mental health challenges, a subject the royals have campaigned about. William and Kate, both 35, will begin a two-day visit to Norway on Thursday.

Pregnant worker fears reprisal from 'boys club' management

EAR ABBY: A few months ago, I informed my bosses I was pregnant. Within a week, they were trying to fire me and blame it on other things at work that made no sense and hadn't been issues before. They made me sign a letter of reprimand in our first meeting about the "issues."

I spoke with a co-worker who told me she had a similar experience when she announced her pregnancy. I work for a company with a "boys club" mentality, so I didn't try to speak to HR because I was afraid for my already threatened job.

A couple weeks later, I miscarried and everything at work went back to normal. I actually got a raise a month later. Last week, I learned I'm pregnant again. My husband and I are excited about it, but I'm scared to tell my bosses for fear I'll have a repeat of last time.

When should I tell them about my upcoming arrival? And is there anything I can do to protect my job? I have been looking for employment elsewhere, but haven't found anything yet. I need this job or else I would have already left it.

SCARED IN UTAH

DEAR SCARED: Pregnancy is a natural condition and you should not be punished for it. The first thing you should

do is document everything that happened during your first pregnancy. Be sure to include what your co-worker told you happened to her, and how—after your miscarriage—all your problems at the office disappeared. Then schedule an appointment with an attorney to ask how you can protect yourself in the months to come.

DEAR ABBY: I have cheated, lied and more. I have made a lot of changes in my life for the better since then, but we all know I'm still a sinner. I have gained a lot of weight over the years, and I hear about it often from my husband and two boys, mostly my sons. My boys are rude and disrespectful to me, and my husband says nothing. They make me feel ugly and worthless.

I know I haven't been the best wife or mother. I thought I was doing better, but I guess not. I'm tired of the name-calling and disrespect. I know I have made mistakes, but must I be put down all the time? One day I feel OK, the next I'm down again. Please help me

FEELS UGLY IN TEXAS

DEAR FEELS UGLY: It appears that although your marriage is ongoing, your husband is still punishing you for your "sins" and has enlisted the help of your sons in

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



doing it. I urge you to look into family counseling for all of you. The environment in which your boys are growing up is unhealthy because they are being encouraged to disrespect women. If it's allowed to continue, they will have relationships and marriages just like your own—ugly and contentious. If you won't seek counseling for yourself, please do it for them.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes





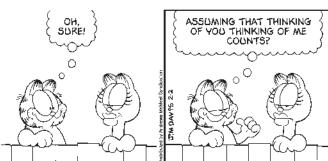




By Bill Waterson

Garfield®





By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis

Adam@home











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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shakira, 41; Christie Brinkley, 64; Brent Spiner, 69; Graham Nash, 76.

Happy Birthday: Walk away from emotional, financial and physical indulgence. Set your standards high and settle for nothing short of reaching your goal. Pace your steps carefully and make sure your plans are doable before you waste time. Know what you want and be willing to put in the time required to be successful. With patience and hard work, you will excel. Your numbers are 7, 13, 24, 29, 36, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Learn from

those who have more experience than you. Show sensitivity and compassion when dealing with your peers. Don't divulge secret information or get involved in gossip. Make personal changes instead of trying to change others. ••••

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be offered information that will help you outmaneuver anyone trying to beat you at your own game. Show discipline and persistence in the way you go about getting your way. Don't exaggerate or make unrealistic

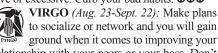
promises. OOOOO GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make a difference if you bring about positive changes that will improve your home environment and relationship with those you live or work alongside. Make sure your heart

is in the right place before you begin. •••• CANCER (June 21-July 22): Partnerships will be important to the outcome of anything you do at work or at home.

Working alongside others will give you a sense of belonging and help you get more accomplished. A commitment can be made.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change to the way you earn your living should be dealt with carefully. Consider any consequences that might take place if you are overly aggressive or excessive. Curb your bad habits.



relationship with your peers or your boss. Don't get angry if someone is competitive. Meet any challenge head-on. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of

domestic matters and elders in the family who may need a helping hand. Being responsible is good, but don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Personal improvements will boost your confidence. Romance is encouraged. 🛇 😂 😂



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your creative imagination take over. Stay focused on ways you can improve what you

do for a living or how you handle your domestic responsibilities. Don't let a personal incident ruin your chances to get ahead.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Something will be off. Listen carefully, but don't believe everything you

hear. Deception or misdirection will be apparent. Ask questions and don't make a commitment to something you don't know enough about. 🛇 🔾

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Money, legal and medical matters should not be left up to someone else to handle. Take your time even if someone is putting pressure on you to make a decision. Control whatever situation you face and do what's

best for you. 🛇 🔾 🔾 AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Strive for perfection. Let your creative imagination flow and your ideas lead to some-

thing unique. Don't be afraid to stand out. Your actions will make others take notice and bring you the recognition you deserve.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have to be realistic about your relationships with others. Look at the pros and cons to any partnership you are involved in and adjust the way you move forward to ensure that equality is maintained. •••

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, quick-witted and proactive. You are innovative and intelligent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

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Wonderword OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

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Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Must be college graduate with at least 4 years experience in communication business. Proficient in verbal and written communication skills. Computer literate and expertise in Microsoft office applications

ACCOUNTANT

Must be college graduate with degree in Accounting or Business Administration and has minimum of 5 to 7 years experience in communication business. Computer literate, expertise in Microsoft office applications and accounting softwares. Knowledge in preparation of financial reports, tax, budget, forecast, billings. Proficient in verbal and written communication.

SALES MANAGER

Must be college graduate has minimum of 5 years experience in communication business. Must have the knowledge in managing daily business operation, handling the administrative, sales and treasury. Proficient in verbal and written communication skills. Computer literate and expertise in Microsoft office applications

(4) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN

Must have at least 5 years work experience in communication business. Knowledge and expertise in programming and repair of iDen communication handsets. Must have experience in working on telecommunications field equipment and structures. Computer literate and must have good communication skills.

Interested applicants can send resume to Choice Radio, Inc. P.O. Box 501750 Saipan, MP 96950.

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Requirements:

- Hotel experience as Front Desk Personnel preferred
- Knowledge of Room Master
- Positive attitude and excellent communications skills
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- Team player

Interested individuals may apply in person at the 2nd Floor Office of Jones and Guerrero Building (next to Hollywood Video Shop), Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. Or you may send your resume to townhousesaipan@gmail.com no later than February 7, 2018.



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- Perform Computer-based Control System

Other requirements:

- Minimum 5-year work experience required
- EPA Section 608 (Certification required)
- Maintenance Technician & Electrical Safety Course in accordance with 29CFR 1910 Standard (Preferable)
- Must possess good communication skill

Two (2) SHEET METAL WORKERS

- Fabricate and install sheet metal & fiberglass products & equipment such as ducts, control boxes, drain pipes & furnace casings
- Set-up and operate fabricating equipment and machines, soldering and welding equipment
- Must be knowledgeable in interpreting plans and specifications
- Preferably knowledgeable in duct size calculation
- Minimum 5-year work experience requiredMust possess good communication skill

Must possess good communication skill

- One (1) HVAC/R SALES REPRESENTATIVE

 Knowledgeable of HVAC-R Equipment and Parts sale
- Knowledgeable of product selection, listing of order and inventory
- Must be proficient on Computer Software such as Peachtree Accounting System, MS Excel and MS Word
- Minimum 5-year work experience required
- Must possess good communication skill

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E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT TWO (2) REGISTERED NURSES

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Will work for a family general practice clinic. Screens patients by reviewing patient charts; Performs triage duties by getting the patient's vitals and document that information in the patient's chart, prior to the patient seeing a provider; Performs as an interpreter for patients to assist providers, as needed; Performs simple laboratory procedures as requested by a Provider, Assists Providers with procedures. Cleans and sterilizes instruments for procedures; Prepares and completes all specimen worksheets for procedures; Completes the necessary paper work for each patient, such as lab forms, referral forms and other patient forms; Assists with the scheduling of appointments for patients; Files proper documents in patient's chart; Pulls out and files patient charts; Assists with the inventory of medical and pharmaceutical supplies, if needed; Prepares exam and triage rooms to ensure that they are all clean, fully stocked with supplies and ready for the next patient; Performs other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate's Degree in Nursing;
- Associate a begine in Norsing,
 At least one (1) year experience in nursing/health care setting; &
- Must be a U.S. Licensed Registered Nurse.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Polly Dlg. Masga, HR Manager Marianas Medical Center P.O. Box 5006 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950 Contact no. 670-234-3926 E-mail: polly.masga@mmcsaipan.com

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section



Underdogs Eagles not intimidated by Patriots

BLOOMINGTON. Minn. (AP)—Wrestling masks have replaced the dog masks.

The underdog Philadelphia Eagles are having fun with the media frenzy leading up to the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots. They're staying relaxed, loose and won't be intimidated by their opponent's incredible success.

Three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Fletcher Cox and All-Pro right tackle Lane Johnson on Wednesday donned masks that resembled the ones WWE star Rey Mysterio and other luchadores wear in the ring.

"This was a gift from Mexico so I can have super powers all week," Cox said about the green mask featuring an Eagles logo.

"I'm just having fun right now. We know why we're here. We can't come into this all uptight. You have fun when it's time to have fun and get serious when it's time to get serious."

Johnson and defensive end Chris Long pulled out German shepherd masks and wore them off the field and in their interviews after the Eagles beat Atlanta in the divisional round. The Eagles (15-3) were the first No. 1 seed to enter their first playoff game as an underdog.

The city, which has always had an underdog personality, embraced the masks. Johnson and Long then turned it into a



ated underdog T-shirts that were sold with all proceeds going to the Philadelphia school district's not-forprofit arm.

The Eagles were underdogs again in the NFC championship game and routed the Vikings

38-7. They're in the same spot against the Patriots, who are 4+-point favorites on Sunday.

But these Eagles don't fear Bill Belichick, Tom Brady or New England's dynasty. Johnson called Brady a

"pretty boy" and made it clear he's not bothered by the

"I definitely respect him and all

that he's done in this league," Johnson told The Associated Press. "I'm not going to go into the Super Bowl worshipping this man and make him more than what he is. No disrespect.

"As far as bulletin-board material, they can put it on their nightstands for all I care, in their bathrooms, I don't care. I don't think you need any motivation to play in the Super Bowl. They know that."

Brady and Belichick have led the Patriots to five Super Bowl titles, including two of game Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018, in Minneapolis. ers were part of a 35-28 upset

Philadelphia Eagles quarter-

back Nick Foles (9) and quar-

terback Nate Sudfeld (7) run

drills during a practice for the

NFL Super Bowl 52 football

win at New England in 2015. The Eagles were a losing team under Chip Kelly that season, but still went on the road and knocked off the 10-1 Patriots.

That won't matter when the teams meet for the Vince Lombardi Trophy. Still, it's a confidence-booster for some guys.

"I think when you've been playing for a long time, you've had games where you've played unbelievable players and unbelievable coaches," All-Pro center Jason Kelce said.

"To me, this isn't any different. These guys have been more consistent throughout the years, but this is the NFL. You play good players every week. There's good coaches you go against every week. I don't think you look at this any different than the fact that this is just another game. You see what they do really well and how you can defend it."

charitable venture. They cre-Mediocre score, rousing success in Tiger's return



(AP)—One year later, Tiger Woods looked five years younger.

There are intangibles that are hard to measure, though at this stage in his return, they mean more than the traditional measure of a golfer.

Woods was walking just as tall at the end of the week as when he arrived at Torrev Pines for the Farmers Insurance Open, and not just because he played four rounds on the PGA Tour for the first time in 29 months.

It's not often that Woods says words like "pleased" and "positive" after a tie for 23rd.

But it would be hard to argue with him.

This did not look like the previous five comebacks from when he had the first of four back surgeries a week before the 2014 Masters. There was no sense of how long he would last, rather how long it would take for him to get sharper.

"Ninety holes over five days in a row ... I know he did that in the Bahamas, but those were 3+ hours, and now we're playing five-hour rounds,"

caddie Joe LaCava said. "That makes a difference because you're adding about seven, eight hours on your feet, playing golf, thinking about what to hit, and hitting shots. So I'm glad he got through that. I'm not saying health isn't going to be an issue, but it certainly looks better than it has."

The only concern was off the tee. Woods hit 17 out of 56 fairways for the week, tied for last among the 77 players who made the cut. He hit only three fairways in each of the final three rounds, and his drive on the par-5 10th hole on the North Course was 65 yards left of the edge of the fairway.

But then, that might have worked in his favor.

How else would he get a sense that his back could handle so many violent swings required to get him out of that

"Some of the shots I had to hit out of the rough, out of the trees, shaping them both ways, and a few times I had to jack up the speed," Woods said after the final round. "And had no issues at all."

The issue was being there in

the first place, but there's time. Woods headed home for

two weeks before he comes back out to California for the Genesis Open at Riviera, a course where he made his PGA Tour debut at age 16 in 1992 but last played in 2006. He's likely to play the Honda Classic a week later, and then have two weeks off before the Arnold Palmer Invitational at

That might be it before the Masters. Woods is not in the two World Golf Championships in March. He is contemplating the Valspar Championship at Innisbrook, but that would mean four tournaments in five weeks, and that might be too much too soon.

If there was curiosity about his performance at Torrey Pines, there is even more about how he plays Riviera.

"We can see the swing is out of sync. He can feel it's out of sync," six-time major winner Nick Faldo said before the final round. "I'm thinking he's going to go away for two weeks and it will be very interesting if he can put his finger on the things he needs to work on."

Keeping score should be

easy in golf, except when it comes to this version of Woods.

There is a call for patience because he has played so little tournament golf and even less with a semblance of good health. But at some point, he should be measured against the field. He should be measured not so much by winning, but by having a chance.

Asked what he thought of Woods' return, two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange took the right path.

"It's not for me to pass judgment on four rounds of golf," he said Tuesday. "I'm giving him most of the year, and then we'll revisit."

In the meantime, his return was as advertised.

Tournament officials issued a notice a few hours after Woods two-putted for birdie from 75 feet to make the cut on the number. It said public parking for Saturday was sold out.

The gallery for the final group on Saturday-which included Jon Rahm, who had a chance at reaching No. 1 in the world—was typical of the last two years, mainly because the thousands of additional fans were with Woods.

the duo's accomplishments, but aren't going into the game already defeated. Several play-



Miller wants Broncos to go after Cousins **BLOOMING-**TON, Minn. (AP)—Now that the Kansas City Chiefs

have agreed to trade Alex Smith to the Washington Redskins, Denver star linebacker Von Miller is lobbying for the Broncos to reel in quarterback Kirk Cousins.

beat the Eagles 24-21 in the

Philadelphia players respect

big game 13 years ago.

In an appearance on "The Dan Patrick Show" on Wednesday, Miller said he'd love for Cousins to rescue the Broncos, who have missed the playoffs the last two years despite a dominant defense. The 29-yearold Cousins is likely headed for free agency after spending his first six seasons with Washington.

"I've talked to him before. He knows exactly how I feel ... and what he would mean to our team," Miller said, adding "We need Kirk. I would love to have Kirk. We have great quarterbacks now. Kirk could take us over the edge."

The Broncos don't have great quarterbacks now. They churned through Trevor Siemian, Brock Osweiler and Paxton Lynch during a 5-11 season under first-year coach Vance Joseph. After the season, general manager John Elway said quarterback was "obviously a position that we feel like we have to

get better at going into the next season."

At the Senior Bowl, where Denver's coaching staff got hands-on work with the likes of draft prospects Baker Mayfield and Josh Allen, Elway said the Broncos will first focus on experienced options to upgrade the position, a path that worked before with Peyton Manning in 2012.

"That's the first step. There is no question. I think seeing where all of that falls, first thing first. Even though we go to the combine (first), once we get back to the office after the Super Bowl is over, we'll dig into the free agency side of it," Elway said. "That will be the focus until we get to the combine."

The Broncos own the fifth overall pick in the NFL draft in April

Miller, who was the MVP of Super Bowl 50 two years ago, is just the latest Broncos player to pine for Cousins, joining the likes of running back C.J. Anderson and linebacker Brandon Marshall.

Miller said on the NFL Network, "If all else fails, I'll play quarterback. No, but on a serious note, I've got all the faith in John Elway and the front office. They've made championship decisions before."

Cavs edge Heat in first game without Love

CLEVELAND
(AP)—LeBron
James scored 24
points, Jae Crowder
made a go-ahead
3-pointer with 1:21
left and the Cleve-

land Cavaliers began a long stretch without injured All-Star Kevin Love by holding off the Miami Heat 91-89 on Wednesday night.

The Cavs rebounded from a troubling loss at Detroit—Cleveland gave up 125 points to the undermanned Pistons—and prevented the Heat from overtaking them for third place in the Eastern Conference standings.

Cleveland played its first game since Love broke his left hand against the Pistons. The five-time All-Star is consulting with surgeons in New York, and it's possible he'll undergo an operation as early as Thursday. Love, who could miss two months, already has screws in the hand from a previous procedure after he broke it in 2009 with Minnesota.

While he's out, the Cavs have to hold themselves together.

Goran Dragic scored 18 and Josh Richardson 15 to lead the Heat, who went just 3 of 28 on 3-pointers.

Miami had a last chance after Cleveland's Kyle Korver made one of two free throws with seven seconds left, but Heat forward James Johnson, harassed by James on the baseline, couldn't get off a shot before the horn sounded.

The Cavs have been enveloped in drama all season. There have been injuries, blowout losses, persistent trade rumors and more story lines than a day-time soap opera.

"As The Land Turns," coach Tyronn Lue said with a sigh following his pregame media availability.

Celtics 103, Knicks 73

In Boston, Terry Rozier filled in nicely for Kyrie Irving, logging his first career tripledouble in his first NBA start and leading Boston over New York.

Rozier had 17 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to become the second player in NBA history with a tripledouble in his first start, joining Tony Wroten for Philadelphia on Nov. 13, 2013, according to Elias Sports Bureau. Irving was sidelined by a bruised right quadriceps after he got hurt during Monday's win in Denver.

Marcus Morris scored 21 points for the Celtics, and Jayson Tatum had 15. Al Horford and Jaylen Brown scored 14 apiece.

Morris left late in the third quarter with a bruised left hip.



Nets 116, 76ers 108

In New York, Spencer Dinwiddie scored 27 points, D'Angelo Russell added 22 in his best performance since returning from knee surgery, and Brooklyn snapped a fourgame skid with a victory over Philadelphia.

Rookie center Jarrett Allen, making his first start at home, had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who took charge of a close game with an 11-0 run early in the fourth quarter.

Dinwiddie had six points during the spurt and a pair of recent 76ers contributed the other five in the first meeting since a trade between the teams last month.

Magic 127, Lakers 105 In Orlando, Marreese Speights

eams last month.

scored 21 points in his second start of the season, Evan Fournier added 19 and Orlando ran away from Los Angeles in the third quarter.

Winning for only the fourth time in 24 games, the Magic made a franchise-record nine 3s in a 43-point third period, their highest-scoring quarter of the season. They shot 18 for 32 (56 percent) from behind

the arc in the game.

Pacers 105, Grizzlies 101

In Indianapolis, Myles Turner had 15 points and 11 rebounds in his return to the starting lineup, and Indiana beat Memphis for its third straight win.

Turner gave the Pacers a 102-101 lead by hitting two free throws with 34 seconds left.

Miami Heat's James Johnson, right, knocks the ball loose from Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018, in Cleveland.

With two seconds remaining, Wayne Selden missed a floater in the lane that would have given the Grizzlies the lead. Indiana came up with the rebound and sealed it at the foul line with less than a second left.

Hornets 123, Hawks 110

In Atlanta, Kemba Walker hit a career-high nine 3s and scored 38 points, leading Charlotte to a dominant win over Atlanta.

The Hornets never trailed while building double-digit leads in each half.

Dwight Howard had 20 points and 12 rebounds in his return to Atlanta after spending one season with his hometown Hawks. It was Howard's second double-double in less than a week against the Hawks. He had 18 points and 15 rebounds in Charlotte's 121-110 victory Friday.

Nicolas Batum had 10 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for Charlotte.

Suns 102, Mavericks 88

In Phoenix, the Suns' fivegame losing streak came with a sobering sidebar, a gruesome injury to backup point guard Isaiah Canaan.

Rookie forward Josh Jackson matched his career best with 21 points and T.J. Warren added 20 as the Suns handed the Dallas Mavericks their fifth loss in a row, 102-88 on Wednesday night.

But anyone who saw Canaan break his left ankle probably wished they hadn't.

Driving to the basket in the final seconds of the first quarter, Canaan was fouled by Wesley Matthews and landed awkwardly. His left foot twisted almost 180 degrees in the wrong direction.

Trail Blazers 124, Bulls 108

In Portland, CJ McCollum had inspiration for his 50-point game: His 92-year-old great aunt was visiting Portland for the first time

He gave her quite a show.

McCollum scored a franchise-record 28 points in the first quarter before finishing with a career-high 50 through three, and the Portland Trail Blazers took advantage of the short-handed Chicago Bulls for a victory Wednesday night.

"During the game I was thinking, she probably thinks this is a really good game to come to," he said, laughing.

Griffin says he wants to be where he's wanted

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Blake Griffin described his reaction when he found out he had been traded.

"Shocked is a good way to put it," he said. "I didn't know anything. I pretty much found out when everybody else found out. It just kind of took a second to realize, OK, like, everything's changing."

Griffin has arrived in Detroit now, and on Wednesday the Pistons introduced him and the two other players they received from the Los Angeles Clippers in the blockbuster deal earlier this week. Griffin, Brice Johnson and Willie Reed should be available to play Thursday night when Detroit hosts the Memphis Grizzlies, and that's when the idea of Griffin in a different uniform will really become a reality.

The Pistons sent Tobias Harris, Avery Bradley, Boban Marjanovic and two draft picks to the Clippers. The trade came seven months after Griffin signed a \$171 million, five-year contract to stay

with Los Angeles—fact that's been duly noted. LeBron James described the deal as "unfortunate"—pointing out that players are described as disloyal for leaving teams, but franchises don't necessarily face the same criticism when trading players who have stayed committed to them.

When asked if he regretted not having a no-trade clause, Griffin kept the focus on his future with his new team.

"I want to play for an organization that wants me to play there," Griffin said. "This is where I want to be, and this is the place that wants me."

Detroit is in its fourth season with Stan Van Gundy as coach and team president, and the Pistons—without Griffin and the newcomers—snapped an eight-game losing streak with a win Tuesday night over Cleveland. If the season ended now, they would not make the playoffs, but they're within striking distance with plenty of time remaining.

An injury to point guard Reggie Jackson has been a big issue, and Van Gundy has cautioned against expecting any immediate surge after Griffin's arrival. The trade was a risk because of Griffin's big contract and his injury history, but owner Tom Gores indicated before Wednesday's news conference that he understands it could take time for the deal to pay significant dividends.

"My job probably should be to be a little patient, although Stan and I did talk yesterday, and our biggest job up front is to adapt as fast as possible," Gores said. "Our expectation was always to win this year, so of course we want to win this year, but whatever happens this year, we have an asset for the long haul. This deal does not happen if Blake was on a oneyear deal."

Gores said the deal wasn't made to provide a short-term boost in fan support, although any added buzz is certainly welcome. The

Pistons have played in front of plenty of empty seats at their new downtown arena this season, but a few more performances like Tuesday's might change that.

"I did consider the buzz it would bring to our players and our organization," Gores

But if Griffin stays healthy and productive, he could easily become a fan favorite in Detroit, where the franchise has long featured physical, blue-collar players willing to throw their weight around. Griffin was asked about a couple of those former Pistons—Ben Wallace and Dennis Rodman—and whether he

said. "I didn't think for a sec-

ond about filling the stadium.

That would be very short-

"Somewhere in between Ben Wallace and Dennis Rodman," he said, drawing a laugh. "Being a coach's son and growing up playing for my dad, and him always demanding that I play hard and be a hard worker."

could be comparable.

MLB owners hopeful of fixing pace of play without showdown



Diamondbacks owner Ken Kendrick is hoping Major League Baseball and the players' association can work out a deal to improve pace of play without imposing changes on the union unilaterally.

Commissioner Rob Manfred has long vowed to put new rules in place for the upcoming season with or without an agreement, but says his preference is for a deal and he is willing to negotiate the changes involving a pitch clock or limits on mound visits.

"We need to improve the pace of play and as the Commissioner said very well we need to really try to do it as partners with the players because that will make it work better than if Rob made a decision to do it on his own," Kendrick said Wednesday after the first of two days of owners meetings near Beverly Hills.

MLB has the right to implement the proposal it made last offseason, which includes a 30-second clock between batters and a 20-second clock between pitches that would reset when a pitcher steps off the rubber and when he makes or feints a pickoff throw, according to details obtained by the AP.

Nine-inning games averaged a record 3 hours, 5 minutes during the 2017 regular season and 3:29 during the postseason. Players have resisted a pitch clock while appearing slightly more amenable to limits on mound visits.

"The absence of a clock is both a blessing and a curse," Kendrick said. "It's more the pace of how the game flows and there are times when it doesn't flow well. It's our responsibility to the fans to try to help that. There's a lot of interest within baseball and I think on the players' side as well."

Manfred is expected to address the issue when he speaks at the conclusion of the meetings Thursday.

Kendrick met with some of his fellow owners to discuss

Arizona Diamondbacks owner Ken Kendrick is followed by Derrick Hall, president and CEO of the Diamondbacks, as they leave a gathering during Major League Baseball owners meetings Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018, in Los Angeles.

the effect of the new tax laws on player trades and pending action in the Supreme Court over legalized gambling.

"That's an area of concern for us," he said.

Among the other owners in attendance were Fred Wilpon of the Mets, Mark Attanasio of the Brewers, Mark Walter of the Dodgers and Tom Werner of the Red Sox.

The free-agent market has been slower than usual this winter, with 51 players finalizing contracts as of Wednesday.

"Definitely an anomaly," said Neil Leibman, chairman of the ownership committee for the Texas Rangers. "There's a lot of teams looking at next year's free-agent market, which is going to be the largest in a long time."



Little League requirements deadline tomorrow ing for the 50/70 title,

By JON PERE7

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan Little League Basebal Inc. officials are reminding managers and coaches of teams competing in five divisions this season to submit all

requirements tomorrow. SLLBI president Mike Borja and player agent Piding Tenorio, in separate interviews with the Saipan Tribune yesterday, said all officers would be at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to wait for the teams that have yet to complete their requirements.

Borja said all the necessary documents, like the team rosters and the entrance fees, are all due on Saturday, Feb. 3. The SLLBI board will be at the pavilion from 10am to 12nn. Tenorio added they needed to sort all the documents before the 2018 season starts on Feb. 17.

'We need to have everything, all the documents, be-

fore we open the season. So we request all teams to comply with the requirements."

Twenty teams, spread out in five divisions—four in the Minor, eight in Major, two in 50/70, three in Junior, and three in Senior—are going to compete in this year's Little League. The SLLB is introducing the Minor division for the 8 to 9 year olds, while the Majors is for kids age 10 to 12. The Juniors is for 13 to 14 year olds, while the Seniors is for the 15 to 16 age group. Games will be held every Saturdays and Sundays.

The Kagman Marlins, Little Cubs, Braves, and Comets are the teams in the Minor division. while the Majors will have Bank of Saipan, Pirates I, McDonald's, NSA Braves, Taalabwogh Falcons. Little Legals, Comets, and Little Cubs. The Western Pacific Telecommunications Chiefs and the Comets will be vy-

vision will have the Comets, Braves, and Falcons, and the Fielders, Braves, and Falcons are entered in the Senior League.

while the Junior di-

Last season, the NSA Braves squeezed out a 7-6 decision against the Falcons to win the Majors division, while the Falcons clinched their third straight Juniors division title following an 8-2 triumph over the Comets. The Falcons' Seniors division squad made it back-to-back crown after 4-3

victory over the Enforcers.

SIS

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1 faced GCA 2 at the Knights turf. Results of the three other matches were unavailable at press time.

The regular season games in the division will continue on Tuesday with SIS hoping to keep its winning run when it duels GCA 1 at the Geckos court and Agape aiming to regain its bearing when it hosts SDA. The two other matches on Feb. 6 will have MCS 1 challenging sister team MCS 2 and GCA 2 battling SCS at the latter's court.

All eight teams will advance to the single-elimination playoffs at the end of the regular season with the No. 1 squad squaring up against the No. 8 finisher. Other pairings in the first round of the playoffs are No. 2 vs No. 7, No. 3 vs No. 6, and No. 4 vs No.5. The quarterfinals is tentatively set for March 2, while the semis games and finals may be played on March 6 and 8, respectively.

Basketball tryouts start Monday

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation development officer Elias Rangamar is reminding interested players that tryouts for slots on the national men's and women's teams will begin on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tryouts are for the teams that will be competing in the 9th Micronesian Games set from July 15 to 28 at the Yap Sports Complex in Yap.

The first day of the tryouts on Monday is for the women's team and will run from 6pm to 8pm, while another one is set on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 1pm to 3pm. Men's tryouts will be held on Saturdays, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm on Feb.10 and from 3pm to 5pm on Feb. 17.

will be holding their respective tryouts and those selected will be joining the national training pool

on Saipan. They will then participate in the next round of tryouts on Saipan before Rangamar makes the final selection.

The national coach, in an earlier interview, said aside from getting tall players, he will also look for versatile members of their squads.

"I hope to form teams that have all-around players. They handle the ball, get rebounds, and shoot," Rangamar said. "I'm going to look at players with more athleticism and have good outside shooting. These are my criteria and I'm going to look for that in the tryouts."

In other news, Ranga-

teams that the three leagues for different age groups will open this month, starting

with the Lunch Hoop 3x3 Tournament, which will have a mixed and open divisions. A meeting is set on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Ada gym's conference room.

The Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League is next for boys U15 and U18 and will kick off on Feb. 12. A separate meeting is set on Feb. 7 at 5:30pm also at the Ada gym conference room.

The MIBF is also looking to start the Island-Wide Premier Basketball League for men's and women's on Feb. 14, Wednesday.

For more information, call Rangamar 234-6672 or email eli_rang@yahoo.com.

SBL

From Page 32

it all depends on the weather. Hopefully, Mother Nature would cooperate with us so we don't have to reschedule games due to rain."

The Ballistics of manager Jay Camacho is the 10th team that signed up for the 2018 SBL season and will join the Outlaws of Manny Salas and the Mariners of Shine Tenorio as the new squads in the island's premier baseball league. Defending champions Aces, last year's finalists Falcons, 2016 winners C.K. Bears, the Blue Jays, GSM. Titanium, and the D9ers

are the regulars in the SBL. The Aces, backed by Best

Sunshine Inc., won last year's title after a 2-1 decision over the Falcons in Game 4 of their best-of-five championship series. They won Games 1 (9-3) and 3 (13-9), while the Falcons clinched Game 2, 12-8.

Players that will see action in SBL will be vying for slots on the CNMI national baseball team that will be formed after the season or midway through the competition, depending if matches will be completed before the Micro Games kicks off. The quadrennial event will be held in Yap from July 15 to 28.

'CRANK'

From Page 32

the loss, remained in high spirits and looks forward to heading back to training after taking a few days off.

"Its [losing] all part of the fight game. All I can do is assess the fight, get back to the gym, and work harder," said Camacho, who is aiming for another Fight of Night award when he returns to the UFC stage.

Alex White, Matt Frevola, Tim Means, Marco Polo Reyes, Mike Perry, Justin Gaethie, Vince Pichel, Mickey Gall, Bobby Green, Nordine

Taleb, Belal Muhammad, Joe Lauzon, Lando Vannata, Sage Northcutt, Thibault Gouti, and Marc Diakiese are some of the names UFC fight fans suggested for Camacho's next opponent.

"Then again, they are just suggestions," said Camacho (21-6, 15 knockouts), who wants to fight UFC veteran Diego Sanchez (29-12, 8 KOs).

Camacho, despite some of his fans saying that his loss against Dober was controversial, remains humble and gracefully accepted the decision of the three judges—with two scoring the fight at 29-28 and the other giving it to Dober at 30-27.

"At the end of the day, the fighters showed up to fight. We do what we do best. And in life, we don't ever get all that we want. All we can do is learn and work harder to achieve the results and goals for the future," he added.

TrenchTech promoter Cuki Alvarez, MMA pioneer and Spike 22 owner Melchor Manibusan, and Brazilian Jijitsu black belt and Purebred BJJ-Guam owner Steve Roberto were at Camacho's corner during his third UFC fight and are expected to assist the Marianas pride in his preparation for his next bout.

Saipan fans take their Super Bowl picks

By JON PEREZ

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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Saipan football fans would like to see the New England Patriots' Tom Brady get ring No. 6, but they would also love to watch the underdogs Philadelphia Eagles pull off an upset against one of the greatest teams in NFL.

The Patriots and Eagles will meet on Monday (Saipan time) at the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis for Super Bowl LII and three days before the highly anticipated action at the gridiron, Saipan football fans pick the team they think will hoist the Vince Lombardi Trophy.



AGUON

The Eagles have the best defense the Patriots will face all season. They [Patriots] barely got by Jacksonville. Wait till they crash against the Eagles' defense. I believe this is the year for the Eagles. And come on, if you're rooting for New England, this is the first time you've rooted for any team this year. You're just jumping on the bandwagon and looking for a place to party. Tom Brady needs a sixth ring? Come on now, you only have five fingers in one hand and we don't need to pimp that ride anymore, hahaha!

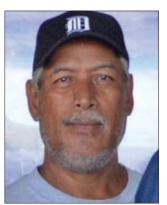
Jenni Aguon, *Eagles fan*



The New England Patriots should be able to win this one. Unless you have been living under a rock for the part of a decade and a half, it's no secret that the Patriots have the experience and will use that to their advantage. They are certainly no strangers to the Super Bowl. Unless the Eagles can



get a little of that New York Giants Super Bowl mojo, it's going to be another win for New England. Of course, that being said, still would love to see an upset (LOL!). Either way, always fun to watch. John Blanco, Commonwealth Football League official



ROGOLIFOI

New England will win since they have the best quarterback in the league right now. They always find ways to be able to comeback when the team is behind. Tom Brady is looking at another championship.

Tony Rogolifoi, NMSA executive director



WHITE

The game will be won in trenches. The Eagles have better offensive and defensive lines The O-line will open up holes for the running game and give Nick Foles time to pick apart the Patriots' secondary. Brady doesn't make many mistakes, but pressure from the Eagles' D-line may force him into some bad throws.

NMSA Michael White, president



HOCOG

Eagles! I think it's the year of the bird...lol...Last year a Falcon didn't fly high enough so I think the Eagle can fly enough to avoid the Patriot...

Carl James Hocog, DPS officer

I lean towards the Patriots. They've been my second favorite team since 2005 when I read that Tom Brady grew up in the Bay Area, is a fellow Class of 95er, and had always



ARRIOLA

wanted to be a Niner. I think this will be a close game just like in 2005 when they played in that Super Bowl. Once Tom Brady decides he's not going to be stopped there's not much any defense can do and we saw that with the #1 defensive Jaguars. But if Nick Foles and the Eagles can keep their foot on the Patriots' throat and hold a lead, we might see an upset. I call it a close game, Patriots 30, Eagles 27.

Ed Arriola, Let's Go Tours



MENDIOLA

New England is my team since middle school. It's (winning the Super Bowl) never easy! Anything can happen in the game. However, the Pats have very strong composure during big games.

Francis Mendiola, Koblerville Elementary School



RUSZALA

After so many years of the Bills sitting at home in the off-season, I've come to appreciate the value of a competitive game. This year, I'd like to see the Patriots win because we're watching the greatest team and the greatest quarterback to ever play the game. I'd still be happy for the Eagles if they win because cornerback Ronald Darby played with the Bills last year.

Brad Ruszala, CNMI Joint Region Marianas Coordination Office public affairs spe-

Hotels, restaurants to televise Super Bowl 52

in giant TV set, in the company of friends, families, and fellow football fans, while enjoying free flowing breakfast, lunch, and drinks?

Check out the various hotels and restaurants on island to enjoy game day featuring the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles.

Charley's Cabaret at PIC

Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret will welcome

fans starting at 7am. En- Chambre Bar at trance fees are \$27 for adults Fiesta Resort and \$15 for children (age 4 For just \$20, enjoy a break- **Tribe's Bar** to 11) for breakfast buffet at fast buffet and drinks while The bar beside Shirley's will be raffled off during the The Magellan. PIC is also throwing unlimited Miller beers and Pepsi and certified angus beef burgers (at halftime) to the deal. If that's not enough, fans can win any of the more than \$2,000 worth of raffle prizes, including hotel stay certificates, \$500 cash, and a Braven Balance HD Bluetooth speaker from Docomo Pacific.

For more information, contact PIC at 237-5126 or 237-5104.

watching the Patriots and Eagles slug it out for the Vince Lombardi Trophy. Doors open at 7:30am. For inquiries, call 234-6402.

Red Box at Saipan World Resort

Limited seats are being offered so grab one before Monday's match. For \$20, you'll get breakfast and lunch, bottomless Pepsi and Heineken, and raffle prizes. Call 234-5900, extension 344 or 388 for more information.

Coffee Shop in Garapan will give you a buffet breakfast, Super Bowl 52 shirt, three bottles of either Bud Light or Budweiser, and a raffle ticket for \$25. It is also offering discounted prizes for other drinks, while for every purchase of Budlight or Budweiser, you'll get an extra raffle ticket. Doors open at 8am. Tickets are also sold at Century Hotel.

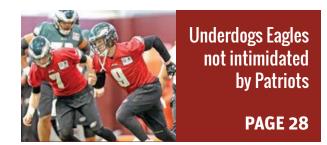
Amari's Tavern

The newest restaurant on is-

land is offering buffet breakfast and lunch and drinks for \$25. Bud Light NFL gear show. Doors open at 8am, while game starts at 9:30am. For more information, call 235-8088.

Godfather's Bar

The Garapan watering hole will open early, at 9am, for the Super Bowl 52. Godfather's Bar will have breakfast and lunch buffet, and drinks for \$25. Raffle prizes also await its patrons. For more information, call 235-2333.



Saipan Tribune SPOITS

Cavs edge Heat in first game without Love

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS stretches winning run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

aipan International School tended its streak to three after rallying past Agape Christian School in their middle school game in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League yesterday at Agape's court.

The Geckos bowed to Agape in the opening set, 17-25, but stole the victory after prevailing in the closely fought last two. SIS pulled off a 26-24 victory in the second set to tie the match and then completed its come-from-behind win with a tough 17-15





triumph in the deciding third.

With the victory, the Geckos swept their assignments this week. The Mili Saiki-coached team outclassed Seventh Day Adventist last Tuesday, 25-14, 25-14, 15-13. Last week, SIS also won all three sets of its game against Mt. Carmel School 2.

Agape, on the other hand, went 0-2 this week as it also fell to Grace Christian Academy 1 last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, besides the Agape-SIS tiff yesterday, three more matches were played in the middle school division at the various school courts here. Mt. Carmel School 2 hosted Saipan Community, while Grace Christian Academy visited SDA in Chalan Kiya, and Mt. Carmel School

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SBL to play on weekdays for 2018 season

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Saipan Baseball League will be having games on weekdays after 10 teams have signed up for the upcoming

2018 season, which is set to open on Feb. 12 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Ballfield.

SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said he decided to schedule games from Mondays



JON PEREZ

The Blue Jays catcher asks for a ball from the umpire during their game against the IPI Pirates in last season's Saipan Baseball League under 25 division at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield. Players in the U25 division are expected to suit up for the various teams that will play in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League.

to Fridays after being informed that the Saipan Little League will no longer use the "Tan Ko" baseball field for games in the Junior and Senior divisions. Matches start at 6:30pm.

The Big League used to hold night games at the "Tan Ko" field but the division was discontinued by Little League headquarters after the 2016 Big League World Series, which was won by Asia-Pacific representatives Taoyuan, Chinese-Taipei. The Junior and Senior divisions play their games also at the "Tan Ko" field, but would only have weekend matches since only three squads in each group signed up for the 2018 season.

"I'm in the process of finalizing the schedule. We're going to play every day, Monday to Friday, since the Saipan Little League informed me that they won't be having any night games," Rogolifoi told Saipan Tribune.

"We should be done before the Micronesian Games, but

See SBL on Page 30

'Crank'eyes UFC summer fight

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com BEPORTER



If things go his way,

Crank" Camacho would like to get back inside the Ultimate Fighting Championship octagon five months from now against any opponent.

"The next plan now is get another fight around summer time and get a win. The fans have been throwing out some awesome suggestions for my next fight," said Camacho in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho suffered a unanimous decision loss to Drew Dober in UFC on FOX 27: Jacare vs Brunson 2, but the explosive three-round bout did not escape the eyes of the organizers, as they earned the Fight of the Night award.

It was Camacho's third straight FOTN honors as he got the same award when he lost to China's Jingliang Li in UFC Fight Night 111: Holm vs Correia and when he defeated Australian Damien Brown in UFC Fight Night 121: Werdum vs Tybura, with both matches happening last year.

The 28-year-old warrior from the Marianas, despite

See 'CRANK' on Page 30



UFC PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho smiles after making weight for his fight against Drew Dober in the Ultimate Fighting Championship on FOX 27: Jacare vs Brunson 2 last week at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.